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The

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In this issue: Special Section on the Work of the IAAP Representatives to the United Nations, President's Corner, Division News, News of Conventions and Conferences, Psychologists' Response to the New Zealand Earthquakes, History and Activities of the Interamerican Psychological Society (SIP), Toward Understanding Violent Islam, and Bob Morgan's Commentary.



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Editorial

Here we have a very special edition of the Bulletin for your reading pleasure. Our IAAP team of representatives to the United Nations is doing many impressive projects with the UN that benefit so many people around the world. These projects are described in a Special Section of this Bulletin which has been edited by Judy Kuriansky, the main IAAP representative to the UN. Many thanks to Judy and all of the IAAP reps.

Have you renewed your IAAP membership? If you are sitting on the fence, reading the President's Corner will undoubtedly persuade you to do so. The title is: IAAP President José María Peiró's Personal Answer to the Question: "Why Did I Renew My IAAP Membership This Year?" There are so many benefits to belonging to IAAP. For me, one of the best is the joy of becoming friends with so many wonderful people. As I write this, I am visiting Ray and Sandy Fowler for the weekend and having a splendid time, as always. I am happy to report that Ray is doing very well, thanks mostly to the marvelous care he receives from his wife, Sandy.

Conferences, conferences! A very successful regional conference (RCP) took place in the Bahamas in November of last year. We have a report of that conference in this Bulletin written by Janel Gauthier, our Secretary General. I am very excited about the upcoming 30th International Congress of Psychology which will be held this summer in Cape Town from July 22 to 27. The theme is Psychology Serving Humanity. This important event is described in this Bulletin by Prof. Norman Duncan who is the ICP 2012 Scientific Committee Chair. The article will certainly pique your desire to attend. For all the information you could ever want to know about ICP 2012, visit the website: www.icp2012.com. In the Division News section you will read about the activities of our Divisions whose members will participate in the ICP. Also, read further for a tiny preview of our own ICAP which will be held in Paris in 2014.

We are so lucky to have another personal account of the activities of one of our members and his fellow psychologists. This time it is Neville Blampied, who is the Head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. He describes the response of psychologists to the tragic September 4th, 2010 and February 22nd, 2011 earthquakes in New Zealand. It is a firsthand account of Psychology Serving Humanity.

Helio Carpenterio, President of Division 18, has given us a very interesting and informative article describing some of the history and activities of the Interamerican Psychological Society (Sociedad Interamericana de Psicología [SIP]).

Near the end of this issue, you will find an opinion piece called "Toward Understanding Violent Islam" written by our distinguished IAAP member, Harry Triandis. Harry is no stranger to sharing his opinions. His book, *Fooling Ourselves*, is fascinating and full of Harry's opinions. It is very worthwhile reading.

And, last, as usual, but never least (just like desert) we have the Commentary written, as always, by Bob Morgan.

–Valerie Hearn, Editor, IAAP Bulletin

IAAP President José Maria Peiró's Personal Answer to the Question: "Why Did I Renew My IAAP Membership This Year?"

During the last few months you probably have had received one or more letters from me as President of IAAP inviting you to renew your membership for the year 2012. When I was reading the last draft of that letter, I was trying to guess which of the reasons presented for your consideration would be the most appealing one to influence your decision to renew your membership. Would it be the *services provided by IAAP* (journals, bulletin, congresses, etc.)? Would it be the one referring to the importance of *belonging to a prestigious large international association*, which has members coming from more than 80 countries of the world and which aims to advance scientific applied psychology? Or, would it be the focus on the promotion and subsidy of the membership for *psychologists from low income countries and for students*?

Before renewing my membership this year, I also asked myself what the main reasons were for me to make this decision. I certainly value the benefits that our Association provides me and I appreciate very much the contributions from all of those who make possible, thanks to their voluntary and altruistic work, the *Congresses, Journals, Bulletin, Division activities, Task forces, governance of the association*, etc. However, the most important reason, in my case, is the conviction of the need to *promote the international identity of Psychology in the current world and to connect social capital for the flourishing of Applied Psychology in the different parts of the globe*.

In my view, Psychology has made, all through its history, important contributions to the promotion of the dignity, flourishing and well-being of people in many places in the world. I am convinced that its potential contribution is much larger than what has been realized. It is important to continue to increase our contributions in the different parts of the world, in the different disciplines, and in the different fields of practice. To do that, psychologists need to *engage in productive and respectful "dialogues" to find innovative approaches and contributions* to the relevant problems and challenges our world is confronted with.

Etymologically, "*dialogue*" means across (dia-) words and rationales (-logos). It is interesting to acknowledge that different people and different groups in different contexts may have different "logos" and it is important to go across them in order to find a better rationale and if possible the truth.

When we contribute to the development of *IAAP* we support a privileged platform of bridging social capital and we *promote the "dialogue" in psychology across the regions, ethnic groups, disciplines, professional practices, gender, generations, and contexts*. It all pays an important service to the productive development of Psychology for the sake of humankind in different world contexts.

When we support IAAP we *promote the "dia-logue"* for the exchange of scientific knowledge, the promotion of competences in professional practice, the ethical approach to interventions and the exchange of experiences. All this is done at the same time that boundary conditions in different contexts are identified in the development and provision of psychological services. It needs to be done not only at the country or regional level but also *at the international and global one*.

When we support IAAP we contribute to the *presentation of relevant inputs from Psychology* to the international organizations and bodies and to make Psychology visible and heard in the "fori" where the global goals and policies are analyzed, discussed and formulated.

When we support IAAP we contribute to enhance the *visibility of Psychology and to promote capacity building* in different regions of the world (e.g. promoting Regional Congresses of Psychology), and we facilitate psychologists from all over the globe benefiting from this dialogue.

All these reasons have informed my decision to renew my IAAP membership in 2012. *However, in some cases, these goals and missions appear too ambitious and hardly achievable, and I need to turn to more concrete experiences.* During the last weeks, I have participated in an *international Winter School* of about 50 psychology students coming from about twenty countries of different regions of the world. The *first phase* of the Winter School consisted in *working in virtual teams* for three months with team-members from different parts of the world. To do their work they had to deal with language difficulties with work scheduling given the different time zones and also with cultural and religious requirements. Moreover, cultural diversity has to be managed through the work processes. One of the assignments consisted of identifying the relevant contextual factors in a given region of the world, not familiar to any of the team members, and to figure out their implications for the practice of Psychology in that region. Later on, during the *second phase (two weeks in-residence)* in a Mediterranean town in the east of Spain the students contrasted what they found with the views from other students coming from the region studied. These and other activities aimed to help them to develop their competences for working in different contexts and cultures in cooperation with colleagues from different backgrounds. It was encouraging to see how the new generations of psychologists are really open and eager to learn from their colleagues living in different regions of the world and how much they enjoyed cooperating among themselves, learning to work effectively and with respect to their differences and benefiting from them.

Often in the *evaluation of this learning experience* we find testimonies like the following one: “I enjoyed getting to know other peers with similar interests from different parts of the world. Working in groups with these peers was a challenge which in itself was a learning experience. In the US we have people who come from a variety of different cultures, but in general there are certain cultural standards that everyone has to adapt to. In the Winter School, so many students from very unique cultural backgrounds gathered together to participate in a very academically intensive program forcing us to learn about our differences and similarities in a very short period of time”.

At the end of this winter school (the fifth one, since its inception) I suggested to these students that *IAAP is the “natural” culture medium where they can continue to nurture their interest for learning and working in different cultures and environments.* When I explained that this association was initiated in 1920 by an international group of prestigious psychologists such as Edouard Claparède, Ovide Decroly, Jean M. Lahy, Emilio Mira-y-Lopez, Giulio C. Ferrari, and Arthur Christiaens, among others, the students became really curious about the actors, the context and the purposes of this venture. Then we asked ourselves *what is the meaning of an association such as IAAP today?* Clearly it came out that it is important to have institutional and organizational spaces where *psychologist from very different regions of the world may have the opportunity to join, exchange information, experiences and knowledge.* Moreover, it is helpful to identify opportunities for *interaction and partners for cooperation in common projects.* The advantage of promoting the identity of psychology while obtaining benefits from the richness of its diversity was also noted. Finally, it was pointed out that, in a global context, IAAP may serve to *promote collective actions to provide relevant inputs from our science and profession to the policies dealing with global issues and needs* in many areas of human and social life in different regions of the world. It was a stimulating session that reassured me in a concrete and exemplary way of the good reasons for renewing my IAAP membership.

Before I finish this President's Corner let me tell you that *I would be pleased to hear from you about your personal reasons to renew your IAAP membership* and about the *challenges and opportunities that you see for IAAP in the coming years*. For sure your ideas and contributions will help us to better identify future activities and projects for our Association. I look forward to receiving your comments. (Jose.M.Peiro@uv.es)

José M. Peiró
President of IAAP

Division News

Division 1—Work and Organizational Psychology

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Division 1, the Membership First Survey was sent to all Division 1 members. All the respondents perceived as fundamental tasks of Division 1 to increase communication among our members, to get more participation from under-represented countries and to become better recognized as work and organizational psychologists as well as acquire a more global presence.

As the result of the Second Survey (2009) we formulated some tasks to be done by Division 1: to speak about W&O psychology's contribution to the global world in communicative and common language, to formulate a common mission which can be shared by W&O psychologists as a basis of their work.

To know more about possible ways to perform the tasks of W&O psychology mentioned above, we are planning to carry on the Third Survey. The Third Survey will be composed of two phases: the results of the first research phase called "Research" is presented below. The second phase called "Action" will follow the results of the first phase. The first step of the Third Survey is the analysis of membership data to know what the structure of membership is, what the main affiliations are and other division choices. Is country representation even and equal? The answers to these questions can give us some answers about how to meet our members' needs and their expectations.

Division 1 of IAAP consists of 708 members from 54 countries. The best represented countries are Australia, USA, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Spain and China. There are also under-represented countries such as Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republik, Hungary and others. The proportion of males and females shows that the demographic structure is balanced between males and females. There is also an interesting structure of affiliation: 46% are so-called "practitioners" and 54% "academics". Part of the psychology professionals working in organizations come from public institutions (defense forces, safety and well-being organizations, transport organizations, education centres and others), consulting organizations and associations and many others. We also recognized that Division 1 members' choices of other divisions are the Division of Traffic and Transportation Psychology; Division of Psychological Assessment and Evaluation; Division of Environmental Psychology; Division of Clinical and Community Psychology; Division of Education, Instructional, and School Psychology and Division of Health Psychology.

As a result of the first phase of the Third Survey, we are considering taking a few steps. To improve communication between Division 1 members we plan to send individual invitations to all our members (especially in under-represented countries) asking them to prepare information about the situation of W&O psychology in their countries. The information will be based on a specially

prepared survey to be filled in with information which will enable future comparisons. Our new survey will concentrate on comparisons of information received from all over the world. Special attention will be focused on academics' and practitioners' common interests and integration.

To achieve the most important task which is to be better recognized as W&O psychologists, Division 1 has undertaken a very important step as Division 1 of IAAP became one of the constituents of the Alliance for Organizational Psychology. AOP is a federation of Work, Industrial and Organizational Psychology societies from around the world. The Alliance was established by Division 1 of IAAP, EAWOP and SIOP. The mission of the Alliance for Organizational Psychology (AOP) is 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. The goals of the Alliance are to enhance the contributions of organizational psychology to global society through improvements to the quality of work life and the effectiveness of individuals and organizations, to develop more effective communication and collaboration among the federated societies, and to advance the science and practice of organizational, industrial, and work psychology internationally.

Division 1 EC members (Jose Maria Peiro, Gary Latham, Handan Kepir Sinangil and Barbara Kozusznik) participated in an AOP meeting in Maastricht on May 28th 2011. Milton Hakel, President of the AOP presented the idea of AOP, its mission and goals 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. José Maria Peiro (IAAP President) asked what we need to do to build trust. Developing trust as AOP is positive for each organization – SIOP, Division 1 of IAAP and EAWOP. The shared membership could be offered for synergy effect. “Trust and dedication make miracles,” said Jose Maria Peiro. The ENOP model of WOP education is an example, and it means real integration. Division 1 EC members (Handan Kepir Sinangil and Barbara Kozusznik) participated also in a meeting of the Alliance for Organizational Psychology in Bologna on the 15th of November 2011. During the meeting the AOP governance plans were reviewed and agreed upon.

Now AOP is planning all-day meeting in San Diego during the annual SIOP conference. On Wednesday, April 25, 2012, the next Alliance for Organizational Psychology Board of Delegates meeting is planned.

–**Barbara Kozusznik**, Secretary of Division 1

Division 2—Psychological Testing and Assessment

The Development of Psychological Assessment in Argentina: Past, Present and Future

–**María Elena Brenlla**¹

The development of psychological assessment methods in Argentina should be viewed within the context of the country's social and political history. During the early 20th Century, many Italians, Spanish, and other Europeans came to Argentina, locating largely in urban areas. These newcomers sought a lifestyle characterized by economic prosperity and safety, away from wars and military raids that assaulted Europe during that period. This wave of immigration resulted in various changes in the country's social order, especially in the cities, warranting the need for industrial and political changes (Rossi, 2009).

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The work of scholars addressed issues important to these changes and thus influenced new state policies. For example, definitions of sanity and insanity became a topic of interest that triggered the development of clinical diagnosis and criminology. Relevant examples of the work done in these areas are Horacio Piñero's articulation of Wundt's sensorial measures with Ribot's pathological method (Piñero, 1916).

Historical landmarks such as the implementation of a free, secret, and universal vote together with university reform that took place in 1918 led to a more democratic system. This new background affected the pursuit of knowledge and the purposes given to it. For example, research by José Ingenieros on fatigue and tiredness informed new labor laws and regulations such as an eight-hour working day (Palacios, 1923). In 1946, Bela Szekely wrote *Los Tests* (The Tests) the first book on psychometrics and projective tests in Spanish.

Test use displayed a growth spurt during the 1940s. Some examples follow. Horacio Rimoldi began his graduate work at Oxford University under Professor Stephenson, a Spearman disciple, and returned to the Argentinean province of Mendoza to establish an experimental psychology laboratory that focused on individual differences. In 1943, he adapted the Raven's Progressive Matrices (Oiberman, 2002). The availability of the Ravens allowed psychologists to examine cognitive abilities and not maintain their focus only on psychophysics measures. In 1946, Rimoldi studied with L.L. Thurstone in the USA and in 1949 obtained his PhD from the University of Chicago. His greatest contribution was the introduction of psychometrics in Argentina.

The formation of Paidos, a publishing firm, in 1945 signaled another landmark in the history of test development in Argentina. Its founders, Jaime Bernstein and Enrique Buttelman, were academics, who created the company due to the lack of opportunity to publish psychology materials in Spanish. The company soon began publishing tests, including projective instruments. For example, in 1950, Murray's Thematic Apperception Test was published followed by the Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test in 1955.

During this period the University of Buenos Aires Vocational Counseling Department was founded by Nuria Cortada de Kohan, Nicolás Tavella and Jaime Bernstein. Thurstone's Primary Mental Abilities Test and the Kuder General Interest Survey were adapted between 1945 and 1970 (Tavella & Cortada, 1960). During the 1970s and the 1980s psychoanalysis was the dominant theory in Argentina and led to the study of projective tests such as the Rorschach Test, Object Relations Technique and Graphic Tests among others.

Current Status of Test Development and Use in Argentina

Argentinean psychologists use various psychological tests, including adapted versions of the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (Wechsler, 1983), Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale III (Wechsler, 2002), Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children IV (Wechsler, 2011), Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test (Bender, 1987), Raven's Progressive Matrices Test (Raven, 1992), Kuder General Interest Survey (Kuder, 1983), Seashore and Bennet's Differential Aptitudes Test (Bennet, Seashore & Wesman, 1992), Millon's Inventory on Personality Styles (Millon, 1997), Beck's Depression Inventory II (Beck, 2006) and Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (Hathaway & Mckinley, 2000). These tests originally were in English. Thus, their adaptations and standardizations have become very important for a Spanish speaking country such as Argentina. The work of the Argentinean Professional Associations, dedicated to psychological assessment, and the International Test Commission Guidelines on test adaptation, figured importantly in this effort (ADEIP, 2000).

Furthermore, psychologists must understand the need to use adapted tests properly, including the following three considerations (Marín, 1986): distinguish etic and emic constructs, consider cultural variables that could affect test performance, and establish conceptual, linguistic, and metric equivalencies between the source and adapted tests.

Methods that lead to a suitable linguistic adaptation become crucial to the test adaptation process. For example, the back translation method, although somewhat widely used, has limitations (Gregoire, 2010). An item from the verbal subtest of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III (2002), *audacious*, demonstrates this limitation. This term first was back translated to Spanish as *audaz*. Although this word has the same meaning as *audacious* in English, the term in Spanish is used more frequently and thus is less difficult. As a result, the adaptation used the word *intrépido* instead as it is less frequently used in Spanish and has the same meaning and frequency as the English *audacious*.

The adaptation of a Spanish language test originally developed in Spain, another Spanish speaking country, may encounter similar issues. A test's language should reflect the word's use in the target country. A test suitable for use in Spain may be inappropriate for use in Argentina due to cultural differences that transcend language.

Test adaptation also should consider the cultural accuracy of the visual and graphic items. For example, the original version of one Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children IV item from the Arithmetic subtest used a drawing of squirrels and acorns. A pilot study of the Argentinean adaptation (Taborda, Brenlla, & Barbenza, 2011) found that children were not familiar with this figure. Similarly, children were not familiar with the image of a sleigh on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children IV Concept subtest. Both examples demonstrate climate characteristics that differ in the southern and northern hemispheres. Test items originally developed for use in the northern hemisphere may need to be changed when used in the southern hemisphere. Pearson Assessment, the copyright holder of the Wechsler products, authorized the change from a sleigh to a swing and squirrels and acorns to rabbits and carrots—which generally are culturally known by Argentinean children, yet do not alter the desired content to be assessed.

One goal of the Argentinean adaptations was to obtain a scale that displayed psychometric properties similar to the original scale. Thus, in reference to the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children IV standardization, the reliability and validity estimates were similar to those of the original test (Taborda, Brenlla, & Barbenza, 2011; Wechsler, 2011). Similar findings also were obtained in the Argentinean adaptation of Millon's Inventory on Personality Styles (Castro Solano, A.; Casullo, M.M. & Pérez, M. 2006).

One should not always expect score profiles to be consistent for a test's various norming subgroups, especially when the subgroups differ by socio-economic status and educational level. For example, data from the adapted Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (Brenlla & Aranguren, 2010) showed persons from lower socioeconomic levels had higher expressions of distress compared to those from higher socioeconomic levels.

During the last 20 years Argentinean psychologists have developed their own scales—not merely adapted them. Locally developed tests are especially important when assessing cultural factors, such as reading and writing achievement and other variables related to psychological aspects that are particularly characteristic of Argentina. Examples include the following tests: *Cuestionario de Intereses Profesionales* [Questionnaire use in Vocational Counseling] (Fogliato, 1991), *Escalas de Bienestar Psicológico para Adolescentes y Adultos* [Psychological Well-Being Scales for

Adolescents and Adults] (Casullo, 2001), *Test de Lectura y Escritura en Español* [Reading and Writing Test] (Defior, Citoler, Fonseca, & Gottheil, 2006), *Test Procalculo* [Number Processing Test] (Feld, Taussik, & Azzareto, 2006), and *Cuestionarios de Liderazgo* [Leadership Questionnaires] (Castro & Solano, 2007).

Future Efforts

Test development and use have shown considerable improvements during the last 50 years. Argentina can build on the following strengths: a tradition of research, adaptation and administration of tests in Spanish; offering graduate courses on psychometrics and psychological assessment; the development of Argentinean tests; adoption of ITC test adaptation guidelines; and a mental health law that awards psychodiagnoses as an activity exclusively for psychologists.

Test development and use in Argentina also have some limitations. For example, many current tests need either to be developed or updated. While there are many psychological tests adapted for research purposes, few have been published. Tests should be classified according to the qualifications needed to administer, score and interpret them. Several tests widely used in other countries need to be adapted for use in Argentina. Professionals not legally authorized to use tests for psychological assessment may do so without being punished. Some tests that have been adapted in Spain are used without proper adaptation in Argentina

Thus, despite improvements, considerable work remains to be done on basic issues in order to improve psychological assessment in Argentina. One main task is to inform the psychological community about the importance of properly using psychological tests, including the following three issues: What qualifications are needed to administer and interpret a test? What are the desired characteristics of a psychological test? What ethical issues need to be considered? Successful efforts that address these issues will further strengthen test development and use in Argentina.

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Division 4—Environmental Psychology

Upcoming conferences

International Congress of Psychology 22–27 July 2012

In July 2012, the 30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference is a great opportunity for environmental psychologists to meet and discuss recent developments in the field. The Division of Environmental Psychology of the IAAP will

co-sponsor two invited symposia: 'Psychological contributions to mitigating climate change' and 'Community-based approaches to addressing environmental problems'. Presenters of the symposium on climate change are Tommy Gärling, Linda Steg, Wouter Poortinga and Mica Estrada-Hollenbeck. The presenters of the symposium on community based approaches are Wesley Schultz, Angelika Wilhelm-Rechman, Diana Woelki, Janet Swim and Wokje Abrahamse.

Also, two keynote speakers on Environmental Psychology are invited to the conference: Cees Midden from the Eindhoven University of Technology and Janet Swim from Pennsylvania State University will present their work.

Several other symposia, individual presentations and poster presentations on environmental psychology will be presented at this conference. Topics are for example: 'Value-behaviour gap: How to fill it in?', 'Sustainability and happiness' and 'Signaling with sustainable innovations'. For more information see: www.icp2012.com.

International Conference on Traffic and Transport Psychology, August 28th to 31st 2012.

The 5th International Conference on Traffic and Transport Psychology (ICTTP) will take place in the city of Groningen in the Netherlands in August this year. The ICTTP is held every four years and is a great opportunity for traffic and transport researchers to come together and communicate new and exciting research findings. Session topics include: sustainable transport, electric vehicles, cyclists, the acceptance of transport policies, shared space, social cognition, and more. Furthermore, Professor Satoshi Fuji is one of our three keynote speakers and will discuss 'Psychological strategies for attitude and behaviour change in mobility management'.

This year we are also proud to announce the Rothengatter Award in memory of the first IAAP Division 13 president Talib Rothengatter. This award will be given to one outstanding student presenter at the conference.

More information on the conference (including a preliminary programme) and the Rothengatter Award is available via its website <http://www.icctp2012.com/> where you can also register. We hope to see you in Groningen in August.

–Ben Lewis-Evans

Best Paper Award

Dear IAAP PhD students,

We are happy to introduce to you the Best Paper Award of IAAP's Division 4 (Environmental Psychology). The Best Paper Award will be given to the author(s) of a paper written by a PhD student. All PhD students who have published a paper in 2011 are invited to submit their papers to the commission of the Best Paper Award. The commission who will evaluate the papers will consist of PhD students from different universities. Please send your submissions to iaapbestpaper@gmail.com. The deadline is August 1st 2012. The criteria for the award are: the (first) author must be a PhD student. Only those who did not yet obtain their PhD on August 1st 2012 may submit a paper, and the paper must be published in a peer reviewed journal. The commission will evaluate the paper on scientific as well as practical importance. The winner will receive an official certificate. The selection committee is looking forward to receiving the submissions.

–Linda Steg, President IAAP Division 4

Finished PhD theses

Zoo-ming in on Restoration: Physical features and restorativeness of environments.

On January 9th, Roos Pals successfully defended her PhD thesis ‘Zooming in on Restoration: Physical features and restorativeness of environments’ at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

A short summary:

What makes an environment attractive? And why do people experience more pleasure and are better able to restore themselves from stress in one environment compared to another? Previous research has shown a relationship between certain indicators of restorativeness (preference, pleasure, restoration) and restorative characteristics of environments (fascination, novelty, escape, coherence, and compatibility). The aim of this thesis was to get more insight into the relationships between physical environmental features and the restorative quality of environments. Virtual reality (VR) was used to achieve this aim. One great advantage of VR is that researchers can systematically manipulate features of the environment in order to examine the effect on peoples’ experiences. The results described in this thesis showed that virtual environments (e.g. virtual zoo-attractions) can elicit similar effects as real environments. Virtual reality was used to examine how physical features (the design of street furniture) in a virtual environment affect preference, pleasure and restoration *via* perceived coherence. Unnaturally designed furniture appeared to negatively influence perceived coherence. This, in turn, negatively influenced how attractive people found the environment, how much pleasure they experienced, and their ability to restore from stress in this specific environment. Insight into relationships between physical features and restorativeness is valuable, because this knowledge about what physical features can enhance restorative outcomes can ultimately be used to design attractive and healthy environments.

The full text is available on <http://irs.ub.rug.nl/ppn/339530588>

Promotors: Linda Steg, Karen van Oudenhoven – van der Zee

Co-promotor: Frans Siero

Funded by: Emmen Zoo (the Netherlands)

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Division 8—Health Psychology

American Psychology Association’s Division 38 (Health Psychology) has established the Health Psychology Committee on International Relations. The committee aims at networking and developing stronger connections between health psychology organizations and health psychologists across the world as well as identifying best international training strategies and health psychology graduate programs. The chair of the Health Psychology Committee on International Relations, Dr. Zina Trost and Aleksandra Luszczynska, president of IAAP Division 8 (Health Psychology), are currently discussing the possibilities of collaboration between their respective organizations.

On February 1st, 2012, Urte Scholz (President-elect of Division 8) became full professor of Developmental & Health Psychology at the University of Konstanz, Germany.

Rik Cruutzen organized a symposium on “Sex, psychology & Internet” in cooperation with Fraukje Mevissen at the Conference of the Association for Researchers in Psychology and Health, in Lunteren, the Netherlands.

Ralf Schwarzer and Yiqun Gan organized a health psychology workshop at the Sino-German Centre in Beijing, China. The workshop was a great success bringing together 28 experts from China and 19 colleagues from Germany. Diverse topics were discussed such as coping with life transitions and social change across the life-span, health behavior change interventions and options for occupational health promotion in China and Germany. Collaborations were established to research intercultural effects and possibilities and to learn from each other.

Recent publications of our EC members:

Craciun, C., Mallach, N., Lippke, S., & Schwarzer, R. (2012). A mediator model of sunscreen use: A longitudinal analysis of social-cognitive predictors and mediators. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine, 19*, 65–72.

Crutzen, R., Cyr, D., & De Vries, N.K. (2011). Bringing loyalty to e-health: theory validation using three Internet-delivered interventions. *Journal of Medical Internet Research, 13*, e73.

Crutzen, R., Peters, G.-J.Y., Dias Portugal, S., Fisser, E.M., & Grolleman, J.J. (2011). An artificially intelligent chat agent that answers adolescents' questions related to sex, drugs, and alcohol: an exploratory study. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 48*, 514–519.

Fleig, L., Lippke, S., Pomp, S., & Schwarzer, R. (2011). Intervention effects of exercise self-regulation on physical exercise and eating fruits and vegetables: a longitudinal study in orthopedic and cardiac rehabilitation. *Preventive Medicine, 53*, 182–187.

Haug, S., Meyer, C., Dymalski, A., Lippke, S., & John, U. (2012). Efficacy of a text messaging (SMS) based smoking cessation intervention for adolescents and young adults: Study protocol of a cluster randomised controlled trial. *BMC Public Health, 12*:51.

Kesebir, P., Luszczynska, A., Pyszczyński, T., Benight, C. (2011). Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Involves Disrupted Anxiety-Buffer Mechanisms. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology, 30*, 819–841.

Lippke, S., Nigg, C. R., & Maddock, J. E. (2012). Multiple behavior change clusters into health-promoting behaviors and health-risk behaviors: Theory-driven analyses in three international samples. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine, 19*, 1–13.

Safron, M., Cislak, A., Gaspar, T., & Luszczynska, A. (2011). Micro-environmental characteristics related to body weight, diet, and physical activity of children and adolescents: A systematic umbrella review. *International Journal of Environmental Health Research, 21*, 317–330.

Scholz, U., Klaghofer, R., Dux, R., Roellin, M., Boehler, A., Muellhaupt, B., Noll, G., Wüthrich, R., Buddeberg, C. & Goetzmann, L. (2012). Predicting intentions and adherence behavior in the context of organ transplantation: Gender differences of provided social support. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research, 72*, 214–219.

Division 9–Economic Psychology

In this newsletter we would like to draw your attention to the upcoming Conference on Economic Psychology in Poland and the Special Issues of the Journal of Economic Psychology.

Conference on Economic Psychology Topics:

The 2012 Annual Colloquium of the International Association for Research in Economic Psychology – a meeting point for all researchers interested in studying psychological aspects of economic

behavior – will be held in Wroclaw (Poland) at the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities from September 05 to September 08. The conference will include the Kahneman lecture, and we are glad to announce that Kathleen Vohs, Associate Professor of Marketing at the University of Minnesota, will deliver it. Other invited speakers are: Helga Dittmar (University of Sussex, United Kingdom), Stephen Lea (University of Exeter, United Kingdom), and Boguslaw Pawlowski (University of Wroclaw, Poland).

Single papers, symposia, and posters concerning different topics from economic psychology, behavioral economics, experimental economics, neuroeconomics, and behavioral game theory can be submitted till the end of March. Abstracts must be submitted through the conference website (<http://www.iarep2012.org>).

The Journal of Economic Psychology:

Economic psychology as a discipline studies the psychological mechanisms that underlie economic behaviour, in general, and money management, expenditures, saving, credit use, provision of labour, etc., in particular. It deals with preferences, choices, decisions, and factors influencing these, as well as the consequences of decisions and choices with respect to the satisfaction of needs. This includes the impact of external economic phenomena upon human behavior and well-being. The Journal of Economic Psychology is the perfect outlet to present research to a broad interested audience. It aims to present research that will improve understanding of behavioral, especially socio-psychological aspects of economic phenomena and processes. The impact factor of the journal has risen to 1.358, and the 5-year impact factor to 1.749. The homepage of the journal is: <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-economic-psychology/>.

In 2011, two special issues were published in the Journal of Economic Psychology: “The Psychology and Behavioral Economics of Poverty” and “Financial Capability”. The new special issue that has already been published in April 2012 is “Personality and Entrepreneurship”. It includes eight papers that discuss such topics as: entrepreneurial personality, self-employment, risk aversion, entrepreneurial intent, trust, and role models and are an excellent example of applying the theory of psychology to interpret and understand people’s behavior in business.

Forthcoming special issues are on tax behaviour, and on self-regulation. While the call for papers for these two special issues has already closed, the call for the third special issue is still open:

From Dual Processes to Multiple Selves: Implications for Economic Behavior

By Fritz Strack, Universität Würzburg and Carlos Alós-Ferrer, University of Konstanz. The guest editors advertise the special issue as follows:

Research on the codetermination of behavior by multiple processes or motives has received increasing attention in both economics and psychology in recent years, motivating both experimental and theoretical research. In psychology, dual-process and dual-system models have been formulated that specify how different underlying mechanisms influence the behavior of human decision makers. These models go beyond rational accounts of human behavior and explicitly include heuristics and emotions as determinants.

While dual-process accounts have long played an important role in psychology, it is more recently that they have been adopted in economic theorizing. In a first approximation, and especially in the realm of intertemporal decision making, economists have modeled multiple motives as the result of the interaction of multiple selves within a game-theoretic framework, whose equilibria are taken

to capture not only the ultimate behavior of the decision maker but also the factors influencing the balance between different motives.

Both multiple-selves models and general dual-process accounts of human behavior have the potential of explicitly integrating anomalies and deviations from the rational paradigm. Thus, it seems timely to invite researchers from both disciplines to disseminate their thoughts and findings in a Special Issue of the *Journal of Economic Psychology* that is exclusively devoted to the potential contribution of dual-process and multiple-selves models to a better understanding of economic phenomena.

Both experimental and theoretical contributions are welcome. . . .

Submission: Manuscripts should be prepared according to the guidelines outlined on the website of the *Journal of Economic Psychology* (<http://ees.elsevier.com/joep/>). Manuscripts should be submitted by April 31, 2012 through that website. Authors should select “Special Issue Dual-Process Models” as article type, and also indicate in the cover letter that the manuscript should be considered for this special issue.

–**Erich Kirchler and Tomasz Zaleskiewicz**

Division 12—Sport Psychology

The network of universities involved in the European Master’s Studies in Sport and Exercise Psychology welcome a new member this year: University of Rome. The consortium that involves a total of 13 European universities organizes common study modules, a two-week Intensive Course and a study abroad period. The intensive course was organized at the University of Amsterdam (26 January-10 February).

Professor Peter Terry received the 2011 Award of Distinction of the College of Sport and Exercise of the Australian Psychological Society (APS). The Award of Distinction is granted to individuals with exceptional merit, in recognition of their significant contribution to sport psychology and to the College.

The kick-off meeting of experts under the EU funded project “Prevention of sexualized violence in sports” took place on February 23–24, 2012 in Frankfurt (GER). The project aims to (a) form a formal EU network, (b) raise awareness of the prevalence and existence of sexualized violence in sports, (c) compile a catalogue of good practices, (d) address prevention, and (e) draft EU policy actions. For more information contact Research Officer Kathrin Linz-Dinchel, (kathrin.linz@iss-ffm.de).

The Division of Sport and Exercise Psychology of the British Psychological Society (BPS) celebrated its annual conference in London (April 18–20). Keynote and invited speakers included: Dan Gould (USA) “Psychology of Olympic excellence and its development”, Sandy Gordon (Australia) “Strengths-based approaches to developing mental toughness: Individual and team”, John Kremer (UK), Nanette Mutrie (UK), Ken Fox (UK), “The life history of a psychological instrument in sport and exercise psychology: The Physical Self-Perception Profile 25 years on” and Mark Bawden (UK). The Division received a public engagement grant to promote the role of psychology within sport from grassroots to the elite level. The project aimed to create an evidence-based resource to feature every day from the start of the Division’s conference to the start of the London 2012 Olympics. Finally, a special interest group called the ‘Expertise and Skill Acquisition Network’ was set up within Division. The group, coordinated by Robin Jackson (robin.jackson@brunel.ac.uk) and colleagues, is the first special interest group within DSEP.

Conferences, Congresses, Workshops

May 28-June 1st, Havana, Cuba. 7th International Congress on Medicine and Sciences Applied to Sports and Physical Activity. **Visit: www.imd.inder.cu**

June 7–9, 2012, Hawaii, USA. Annual Congress of the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity Conference (NASPSPA). Visit: **www.naspspa.org/**

June 22–23, 2012, Ohio Center for Sport Psychology, USA. 13th Annual Workshop in Applied Sport Psychology entitled “Developing Your Knowledge, Skills, and Practice in Sport Psychology”. The workshop, conducted by Jack J. Lesyk, President of AASP, is designed for mental health and sport science professionals and students who are interested in starting or expanding consulting practices in sport psychology. Visit: **www.SportPsych.org**.

July 4–7, 2012, Bruges, Belgium. 17th Annual Congress of the European College of Sport Science (ECSS). The theme of the congress is “Sport Science in the Heart of Europe”. Visit: www.ecss-congress.eu/2012

July, 19–24, 2012, Glasgow, Scotland. International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport (ICSEMIS) conference and Annual Conference of the British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES). Visit: **www.icsemis2012.com** and www.bases.org.uk/bases-Annual-Conference

July 22–27, 2012, Cape Town, South Africa. 30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP). Founder President of Division 12, Glyn C. Roberts to organize an invited symposium “Using sport to teach HIV/AIDS life skills intervention”. Visit: www.icp2012.com

August 13–17th, 2012. Glasgow, Scotland. 8th World Congress on Active Ageing. Visit: www.WCAA2012.com

September 19–22, 2012. Kranjska Gora, Slovenia. 4th World conference of the International Society for the Social Sciences of Sport (ISSSS). Visit: **www.spolint.org**

September 27 - 30, 2012. Perth, Australia. 47th Annual Australian Psychological Society Conference. Visit: **www.apsconference.com.au/Home**

October 3–6, 2012, Georgia USA. 27th Annual Conference of the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP). Keynote and invited speakers include: Division 12 president-elect Joan Duda (UK), Colleen Hacker (USA) and Tony DiCicco (USA), Ken Fox (UK), Reed Larson (USA), Keith Harrison (USA), Marcus Pollard (USA). Visit: **www.appliedsportpsych.org/conference**

October 31-November 3, 2012. Sydney, Australia. Be Active Conference (Sports Medicine Australia). Visit: **<http://sma.org.au/asics-conference/future-conferences/be-active-2012/>**

November 1–3, 2012. Jyväskylä, Finland. International Congress on enhancement of physical activity and motor skills. Visit: www.icepa.fi

November 5–9, 2012. Copenhagen, Denmark. PhD course organized by the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences of the University of Copenhagen. The course is entitled “Producing and sharing knowledge in the world of sport- Research methods and publishing strategies for PhD students in sport psychology and the neighboring disciplines”. For more information please contact Anne-Marie Elbe at amelbe@ifi.ku.dk.

New Publications

Baltzell, A. (2011). Living in the sweet spot: preparing for performance in sport and life. Fitness Information Technology.

Carron, A., Eys, M. (2011). Group dynamics in sport (4th ed.). Fitness Information Technology.

Martens, R. (2012). Successful coaching (4th ed.). Human kinetics.

Roberts, G. C. & Treasure, D. C. (2012). Advances in motivation in sport and exercise (3rd ed.). Human Kinetics.

Silva, J. Lerner, B. & Metzler, J. (2011). Training professionals in the practice of sport psychology. Fitness Information Technology.

Smith, R. E. & Smoll, F. L. (coming soon). "Sport Psychology for Youth Coaches: Developing Champions in Sports and Life" to be published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Smith, R. E. & Smoll, F. L. (coming soon). "Parenting Young Athletes: Developing Champions in Sport and Life" to be published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Both books provide evidence-based guidelines for promoting positive sport outcomes for young athletes.

–**Montse Ruiz, Bulletin Editor, Division 12**

Division 13—Traffic and Transportation Psychology

Division 13 members continue to contribute to international conferences, as listed below. The Division – and its President-Elect, Lisa Dorn – also helped to organize the Fifth International Conference in Driver Behaviour and Training (ICDBT5) as detailed below. Division news is posted at the updated website

(<http://www.iaapsy.org/division13/>). Please contact me at matthegl@ucmail.uc.edu if you have any items for the next IAAP newsletter.

–**Gerald Matthews, President, Division 13**

Forthcoming conferences on traffic and transportation psychology

1. The Fifth International Conference on Traffic and Transport Psychology (ICTTP5 – 2012) will take place in Groningen, The Netherlands, August 29–31 2012. The conference theme is "Traffic and transport behaviour: Interaction between theory and practice". Keynote lectures will be given by Serge Hoogendoorn, Frank McKenna and Satoshi Fujii. A business meeting for IAAP Division 13 will be held at the conference on the 30th of August. Conference organisers are Dick de Waard, Linda Steg and Karel Brookhuis. For further details see: <http://www.icctp2012.com>.
2. The First International Conference on Human Factors in Transportation will be held at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco, 21–25 July 2012. The conference will be held jointly with the Fourth International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics (AHFE). Paper submissions may be made via the AHFE website until November 15. Conference organisers are Neville Stanton (road & rail) and S. Landry (air). For further details see: <http://www.ahfe2012.org/HFT.html>.
3. The First International Conference on Aging, Mobility and Quality of Life will focus on requirements of elderly people for transport and mobility and will take place at the University

of Michigan 24–25 June 2012. The conference organiser is Dr David Eby (eby@umich.edu). More information is at: <http://www.agingmobilityconference.com/index.html>.

4. Proposals for the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) are due by March 29. The Meeting will take place in Boston, October 22–26, 2012. HFES has 22 Technical Groups (TGs); proposals on traffic and transportation issues are most commonly submitted to the Surface Transportation, Safety and Aerospace Systems TGs. See <https://www.hfes.org/Web/HFESMeetings/2012annualmeeting.html> for more details.

Fifth International Conference on Driver Behaviour and Training

–Dr Lisa Dorn, Cranfield University, UK

The Fifth International Conference on Driver Behaviour and Training (ICDBT5) held in Paris on 29–30 November 2011 was the most successful conference in the series to date. The ICDBT aims to debate new initiatives in the scientific enquiry of road user behaviour, education and training. The conference was hailed as a success by the 150 plus delegates attending the event held at the highly prestigious venue, the Tapis Rouge. The conference, hosted by Cranfield University, was praised by delegates from over 20 countries for its academic content and practitioner-oriented approach. The ICDBT was sponsored by the global insurer QBE and the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) as an activity under the auspices of Division 13, Traffic and Transportation Psychology. A Division 13 business meeting was scheduled as part of the conference programme to discuss various matters, including strategies to increase IAAP and Division 13 membership, promoting of IAAP Division 13 activities, and advancing the applied field of traffic and transportation psychology.

The event has grown from strength to strength since the first conference held in Stratford upon Avon in 2003, followed by ICDBT2 in Edinburgh in 2005, ICDBT3 in Dublin in 2007 and ICDBT4 Amsterdam in 2009. Year-on-year there has been an increase in attendance and the numbers of abstracts received as its reputation has grown amongst the academic and practitioner community. The conference programme contained an unprecedented number of good quality presentations and papers. The papers were organised into 20 symposiums in four parallel streams on topics such as young driver behaviour, eco-driving, mobile phones and driving, driver training, driving simulators, cyclists and rider training, at-work driver risk and issues in the use of in-vehicle technology.

A high calibre of contributors from over 60 academic institutions and road safety groups across the world delivered excellent cutting edge papers. Top researchers in the driver behaviour field delivered keynote addresses, including Professor Ian Glendon from the School of Applied Psychology, Griffith University, Australia. His research interests are transportation psychology, driver stress/behaviour, safety/risk management, and safety culture/climate. His over 100 publications include five books. Professor Glendon delivered his paper on addressing potential risks facing young drivers. The second keynote speaker was Professor Michael Regan of the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Professor Regan is an applied experimental psychologist with more than 20 years experience in transportation human factors research. He gave his keynote address on the latest research in driver distraction, inattention, and human error.

The final keynote paper came from Dr Martin Langham talking about visual perception and crash investigation. Martin is Managing Director of User Perspective – a human factors research company based in the science park at the University of Sussex and has led over 200 research projects and over 30 forensic investigations on behalf of the UK Government, police forces and the military working in the domains of counterterrorism, road, air, rail and marine transportation. Martin led

the Human Factors investigation both on behalf of Lord Steven's Operation Paget and on the later inquests into the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales and Mr Dodi Al Fayed.

Selected papers representing 38 chapters will be published in the conference proceedings by Ashgate in August 2012 in volume 5 of Driver behaviour and training.

Division 16—Counseling Psychology

Special Issue Title: Career Adaptability: Model and Measurement

Guest Editors: Frederick T. L. Leong and W. Bruce Walsh

During his term as President of Division 16, Fred Leong set a goal of facilitating international collaboration on research projects, including one on career counseling and one on multi-cultural counseling. The first project focused on career adaptability and has already born fruit in terms of symposia and satellite meetings. The career adaptability project was initiated by Maria Eduarda Duarte (Portugal) and Raoual Van Esbroeck (Belgium). They organized an international team of vocational psychologists from 18 countries to jointly study career adaptability (Australia- Mary McMahan; Belgium- Raoul Van Esbroeck & Nicky Dries; Brazil – M. Célia Lassance; China- Zhijin Hou; England – Jenny Bimrose; France – Jean Guichard & Jacques Pouyard; Germany- Barbel Kracke; Hong Kong – Alvin Leung; Iceland – Gugga Vilhjalmsdottir; Italy – Salvatore Soresi, Laura Nota, & Lea Ferrari; Japan – Agnes Watanabee; Korea – Jinkook Tak; Netherlands – Annelies van Vianen & Ute Klehel; Portugal – Maria Eduarda Duarte; South Africa – Kobus, Maree & Mark Watson; Switzerland – Jean-Pierre Dauwalder & Jerome Rossier; Taiwan – Hsiu-Lan Tien; USA – Mark Savickas, Erik Porfeli, Fred Leong, Fred Vondracek, & Mark Leach).

The Career Adaptability Research Team met at Humboldt University (Berlin, Germany) in July, 2008 and at The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Australia) in July 2010 to discuss how to measure the construct of career adaptability. Together, they produced a conceptual framework that distinguishes among adaptability readiness, resources, responses, and results. Then they jointly constructed a measure of career adaptability resources in the English language, later translating it as needed for use their home countries. The initial results of their work will appear in a special issue of the Journal of Vocational Behavior edited by Fred Leong and Bruce Walsh to be published in June 2012. The articles in this special issue report the work of the international team as a whole along with work done separately by 15 teams in their individual countries.

– **Mark Savickas for Division 16**

Division 18—History of Applied Psychology

Dear Colleagues,

Our Division has been running with only a very small staff, with a President and a colleague acting as Newsletter editor since the division was approved at the IAAP Melbourne Congress in 2010.

It has been thought appropriate to incorporate a President-Elect who could participate in the assembly that will take place in Cape Town in July and who could also help to prepare the program of our Division for the IAAP Paris Congress of 2014.

It is my pleasure to inform you that, in the current election process for President-Elect, there has been a unique candidacy presented by Dr. Ruben Ardila, from Bogota (Colombia).

Being the only valid candidate, he is formally proclaimed as President-Elect of our Division 18.

Dr. Ardila is a psychologist known world-wide. He is very active in the international scene and highly interested in historical topics.

Congratulations to Dr. Ardila, and many thanks to all that have contributed to the process.

Yours cordially,

Prof. Dr. Helio Carpintero, President, Division 18

Psychology Serving Humanity

ICP 2012: An Update

More than 5,500 accepted abstracts

By the closing date of 1 March for Rapid Communication Posters for ICP 2012, more than 6,500 abstracts had been submitted. Of these, some 5,500 have been accepted for inclusion in the ICP 2012 scientific programme. ICP 2012 will certainly be the largest and most significant psychology conference ever held on African soil.

The list of accepted abstracts include 14 state-of-the-science papers, 170 invited podium presentations, some 70 invited symposia, 12 specialist workshops, 220 regular symposia, more than 1,000 poster presentations and a series of controversial debates and translational policy research lectures. With so many and such a diversity of presentations on offer, including Invited Presentations by the leadership and divisions of IAAP, ICP 2012 promises to cater to the widest possible range of interests appealing to both practitioners and academics.

In order to accommodate the very large number of accepted podium presentations, 27 parallel sessions arranged in specific content areas will run daily from 23 to 27 July 2012. Very popular areas of research such as organisational, educational, developmental, clinical and cognitive psychology will have at least two parallel sessions running concurrently for the duration of the Congress.

An impressive array of cutting-edge presentations

ICP 2012 will include an impressive range of cutting-edge paper and poster presentations, including presentations dealing with topics such as:

- The consequences of the increasing dominance of neuroscience in psychology
- The destiny of child victims of intentional violence: Between resilience and chronic trauma
- Lessons from an evaluation of South African community-based early childhood interventions
- The challenges and opportunities of practicing community psychology in post-revolutionary Egypt
- Small samples and linear integration: Cognitive constraints on human judgment
- Finding the lost girls: Sudanese refugee women's experiences relating to forced relocation
- International perspectives on peace, war, terrorism and torture
- Meta-theory in an international context: Critical psychology and its variations
- Geropsychology for an aging world

Perusal of the full corpus of accepted abstracts indicates that the ICP 2012 promises to be an impressive event, not only in terms of the sheer number and range of presentations, but also in terms of the quality. Indeed, the consensus amongst members of the Scientific Committee as well as external experts is that the quality of the abstracts accepted for ICP 2012 is impressive, undoubtedly due to the unparalleled rigour of the very comprehensive review processes that were designed and implemented by the ICP 2012 Scientific Committee.

State-of-the-science speakers

Fourteen internationally renowned scholars have accepted invitations to present state-of-the-science lectures in their fields of expertise. These include luminaries such as Paul Ekman (USA: facial expression), Nicola Gavey (New Zealand: gender), Elizabeth Loftus (USA: false memory), Maritza Montero (Venezuela: community psychology), Michael Rutter (UK: developmental psychopathology), Mohamed Seedat (South Africa: violence) and Barbara Wilson (UK: neuropsychological rehabilitation). Please visit www.icp2012.com for a complete list of state-of-the-science speakers.

Invited speakers

The long list of influential scholars who will present invited papers at the 30th ICP includes the likes of Buxin Han (China), Marta Fülöp (Hungary), Susan Gathercole (UK), Ghislaine Dehaene-Lambertz (France), Peter Juslin (Sweden), Hvroje Gligora (Croatia), Hugo Klappenbach (Argentina), Reinhold Kliegl (Germany), Maria-Regina Maluf (Brazil), Bame Nsameng (Cameroon), Isaac Prilleltensky (USA), Geoffrey Read (Switzerland), Mark Solms (South Africa), Oliver Turnbull (UK), Teun van Dijk (The Netherlands/Spain) and Michael Wessels (USA). The full list of invited speakers is available at www.icp2012.com

Approximately 126 countries will be represented at the 30th ICP

Some 126 countries (including Cuba, Brazil, Fiji, Qatar, Peru, China, Malaysia, Russia, Nigeria, Egypt, Iran, Belgium, Canada, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Iran, the United States, Belarus and Norway) will be represented at the Congress. Current statistics indicate that South Africa, the United States of America, China, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, the Russian Federation and Japan will be amongst the countries with the strongest representation at the Congress.

Opening ceremony

ICP 2012 will commence with an opening ceremony designed not only to speak to the theme of the Congress but also to provide participants with a feel of the African continent and its aspirations for the future development of psychology. During the course of the opening ceremony, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr Navi Pillay, will present a short address as will the President of the Republic of South Africa. The opening ceremony will also be the occasion on which Nobel Laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu will be presented with the Steve Biko Award for Psychological Liberation from the Steve Biko Foundation and the Psychological Society of South Africa. The proceedings will be concluded with a South African cultural extravaganza and welcome cocktail reception.

If you have not yet registered for ICP 2012 kindly do so, so that you do not miss out on what clearly promises to be one of the signally most exciting and important events in the history of psychology in South Africa and the African continent.

–Prof. Norman Duncan: Chair ICP 2012 Scientific Committee

Part 1
SPECIAL SECTION
IAAP Advancing Psychology in Global Issues
at the United Nations: Reports from the IAAP
UN Representatives

Edited by Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D., Main Representative to the United Nations of the International Association of Applied Psychology

This section of the IAAP Bulletin includes reports from the IAAP United Nations team of representatives in New York. IAAP has been making impressive steps towards advancing the organization's mission at the United Nations. The UN team of representatives has been exceptionally active as chairs and board members of committees, as well as speaking on panels, participating at briefings and advocating at high level commissions about the role of psychology in global issues and achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. The field projects of IAAP have been presented widely at professional conferences and in meetings with high level executives and international stakeholders, and have even gained media attention. The videos produced about these projects have been exceptionally useful in generating understanding and interest in the programmes, with many people approaching the team after viewings, to be involved and collaborate in various endeavors. The team continues to welcome participation, contributions and cooperation with IAAP members and other professionals.

The following articles report on the diverse activities of the team, including meetings, presentations, workshops and advocacy.



The IAAP United Nations team: from left to right, in front row: Janice Bloch, Florence Denmark, Mary O'Neill Berry, Judy Kuriansky, Martin Butler, Wismick Jean-Charles. In back row, from left to right: interns Alicia Cho, Jeannette Raymond and Emily Lawson.

Part 2

“Train, Retain, Gain: Workshop on Youth Volunteer Leadership for Intercultural Cooperation to Build Stronger Societies” at the DPI/NGO conference in Bonn Germany

IAAP has had a distinguished history of involvement with the annual United Nations Department of Public Information/NGO conferences, which are very important meetings for UN-accredited organizations. The meetings bring together thousands of NGO representatives, UN officials and experts for roundtables, workshops, exhibits and side events. The topic, which differs each year, is always related to a major global issue.

IAAP sponsored or co-sponsored workshops have been accepted every year in the past, submitted by IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky, who often moderates and speaks on the panel. These have been on psychological aspects of wide-ranging topics of global importance, including human rights, disarmament and global health. For example, IAAP’s workshop on human rights was entitled “International Community Mental Health Education: Human Rights Based Grassroots and Professional Models.” At this event, IAAP Secretary-General Janel Gauthier presented the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists. The IAAP workshop at the DPI/NGO conference on disarmament was entitled “Abolishing Tools of War and Creating Projects for Peace: Models of Citizen Activism for Psycho-social Health of Communities Now and in the Future.” At the 2010 conference in Melbourne Australia on Global Health (held at the same venue as ICAP 2010), IAAP UN rep Kuriansky created a partnership between IAAP and the Australian Psychological Society and Swinburne University (through Mike Kyrios) to present a booth exhibit entitled “Psychology for Global Health” highlighting the importance of mental health in global health issues and the role of psychology in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in implementing humanitarian projects and in providing disaster recovery plans.

The most recent annual DPI/NGO conference was on the topic of “*Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens*,” held in Bonn Germany from 4-6 September 2011. The IAAP sponsored workshop was entitled “Train, Retain, Gain: Workshop on Youth Volunteer Leadership for Intercultural Cooperation to Build Stronger Societies.” It was organized and submitted by IAAP UN representative Martin Butler and moderated by IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky who also served as a speaker. The workshop, as the conference itself, was also meant to coincide with the UN celebration of Volunteerism.

The following report about the workshop was submitted by the rapporteur assigned by DPI.

Introductory Highlights

The workshop was moderated by Dr. Judy Kuriansky (USA), International Association of Applied Psychology. Panelists included Mr. Nejeed Kassam (youth, Canada), founder of End Poverty Now and Executive Director of Networks of Change, Dr. Tahereh Pir Soriano (USA), founder of the Institute for Multicultural and Education Services, as well as Dr. Judy Kuriansky herself.

The workshop was organized in an interactive way, with the presentations from each panelist followed by a question-and-answer session for the audience to not only ask questions but also to

share related experiences. Key points covered in the panelists' presentations included the concept and significance of youth volunteerism, as well as its power to bring about social change. Various practical examples to engage youth in volunteerism were also presented. Moreover, all panelists stressed the importance of giving real responsibilities to youth volunteers in order to build responsible citizens and the importance of providing a mentoring framework in order to enable youth to develop their full potential as activists and leaders in their respective communities.

During the question-and-answer sessions, key points raised by the audience included affirming the panelists' points about the importance of involving youth volunteers in intercultural activities as a means to stimulate curiosity and knowledge about "the other," thereby breaking down stereotypes and negative attitudes among different cultural, ethnic and religious communities. In addition, the question of training of mentors was brought up.

Salient Points from the Workshop Presentations



Intergenerational team of IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky with Nejeed Kassam speaking at the UN DPI/NGO conference.

In introducing her presentation, **Dr. Judy Kuriansky** highlighted the importance of both the contribution of youth volunteers and intercultural cooperation for creating sustainable and safe societies, particularly in the light of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, i.e. the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. She related the theme of the workshop to the international development agenda by underscoring the fact that youth volunteers should be engaged in projects aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Using video clips to illustrate her descriptions, Dr. Kuriansky presented several examples of projects where youth volunteers are engaging in

grassroots activities in their communities to foster intercultural understanding. In the "2011 Hours Against Hate Campaign," youth around the world can participate by logging on to Facebook to volunteer several hours of their time to meet someone from another culture. The "Manhattan Multicultural Summer Youth Programme" is a model that can be replicated in other countries, which also invites young people to meet youth from other cultural and religious backgrounds with the overall objective to reduce hate, break down stereotypes and create intercultural harmony. Another intercultural youth initiative she described is the "Global Kids Connect Project" that she developed to connect kids in trauma zones, after the earthquakes in Haiti and Japan. She showed a video demonstrating her training youth volunteers who belong to the Haiti Action for the United Nations, to lead workshops with kids. Using a "train the trainers" model where these youth would train other youth—she emphasized the importance of this approach in order to create sustainability of the youth volunteer effort.

Nejeed Kassam, a 25-year old law student from Canada and the Executive Director of Networks for Change, started his presentation by questioning the audience about the motivations

that people have to volunteer; responses from the audience included for personal reasons, for intellectual challenge, to keep proximity to communities, and creating change for a better world. He stressed that volunteers act as a catalyst for social change and are therefore central to the success of societies. With regards to recruitment and engagement of youth volunteers, Nejeed pointed out that it is imperative that special attention is paid to providing continuous inspiration, responsibility and appropriate mentorship to youth volunteers. In order to empower young people, true responsibility must be shared with them; this will enable them to develop their full potential as leaders and activists in their respective communities. Nejeed illustrated these messages by sharing his own experiences when starting as a grassroots youth volunteer and eventually founding the international NGOs, “End Poverty Now” and “Networks for Change”.



Panel at DPI/NGO conference in Bonn Germany, from left to right, IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky, youth speaker Nejeed Kassam, and ICP UN rep Tara Pir.

Dr. Tahereh Pir Soriano presented the work of her Institute for Multicultural and Education Services (IMCES) that services a major intercultural community. The initiative offers a vast number of programs for ethnically diverse communities in the area of primary and mental health care as well as various related support services. In delivering its programmes, IMCES takes a “Wraparound” approach, encouraging recipients, including young people, to become actively engaged in the entire process and take ownership of the aid they receive as opposed to remaining sole passive service receivers. Former service recipients are also encouraged to share experiences with other recipients encouraging them to become actively involved the service-delivery process. Children and young people at risk, particularly youth in prisons and on the streets, are targeted by the wraparound approach by empowering them to achieve better adjustment, set life goals, and fulfill their own potential, and then empowering them to teach their peers, thereby becoming leaders in their community.

Salient Points from Audience Question-and Answer Session

The audience raised various challenges and crucial aspects in working with youth volunteers, including the fact that young people often have stereotypes and negative attitudes inherited from their educational and family environment. It was stressed that in such a context, it is important to create relationships at the personal level between young people of different backgrounds leaving out political or religious opinions that could reinforce such stereotypes.

One participant questioned whether meeting and building personal relationships with young people from different backgrounds would have the force to break down negative attitudes and prejudices. Dr. Judy explained that it is important to not only see, and respect, differences among diverse

communities but also to recognize what they share (e.g. importance of family and friendship, etc.). Demonstrating an exercise on how to do this showed how people can appreciate the “other” by recognizing their communalities and feeling less different from each other.

Another question queried the training and capacity-building of mentors for youth volunteers. Nejeed Kassam advised that mentorship in an organization working with youth volunteers should be dealt with in a formal way through mentorship programmes, codes of practice, etc.

Conclusion

The following two major points were crystallized in the workshop discussions:

- The importance of empowering youth volunteers by giving them responsibility in order to empower them learn, grow, and become leaders in their community;
- The significance of providing appropriate mentorship to youth volunteers, guiding them in exercising their responsibilities both at the theoretical and practical levels of their engagement.
- –This report submitted by Kornelia Guse, the rapporteur at the DPI/NGO conference.



Earlier at the opening night celebration, Dr Judy Kuriansky and Nejeed Kassam filmed and then edited a video about the opening night events. This was a very colorful event as characters on stilts greeted the conference attendees, in four different characters: dressed as wind, fire, earth and air. The characters danced around and entertained the attendees, and provided an interesting metaphoric setting of being responsible for, and well-treated by, the environment, for whom we must care, paying

attention to our carbon footprint and making sure to be “green” to maintain the purity of the four elements. It was certainly a reminder of the issue of sustainability and warning for the environment in which we live. The video can be seen on youtube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch-fyCmhyMo&context=C2796eADOEgsToPDsklyKCp3DU7ksAMIWMvh4jY0>

At the conference, a profile was also done and posted about Dr Judy Kuriansky, in relation to the fact that the 9/11 date of the attacks on the World Trade Center coincided with the conference, and Dr. Kuriansky had been very involved with the recovery efforts. See <http://training.dw-world.de/ausbildung/blogs/un/?p=541>. She worked as a mental health volunteer at “the Pit” (the site of the bombings) and at the Family Assistance Center, and was featured in a Red Cross campaign.

– Submitted by Judy Kuriansky, IAAP UN representative

Part 3

The Fifth Annual “Psychology Day at the United Nations: Human Rights for Vulnerable People: Psychological Contributions and the United Nations Perspective”

The Fifth Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations took place this year on 19 April 2012, from 12.30pm to 4.30pm, in the UN Church Center, which is just across the street from the United Nations Headquarters building in New York City. This year’s Psychology Day at the UN was co-chaired by Dr. Martin Butler, IAAP UN representative. IAAP has always played a major role in Psychology Day, with members on the planning and media committees, and also serving as presenters or moderators. Florence Denmark (an APA UN rep at the time) was the first chair; the 2011 Psychology Day was co-chaired by Mary O’Neill Berry, Walter Reichman has moderated panels, and Wismick Jean-Charles and Judy Kuriansky have presented.



Psychology Day at the UN planning committee meeting. From left to right: Merry Bullock, Ph.D., Senior Director of the APA Office of International Affairs; Mary O’Neill Berry, Ph.D., IAAP UN rep; Fahad Rahman, APA UN intern, Deborah L. Vietze, Ph.D., APA UN rep; co-chairs: Martin Butler, Ph.D., IAAP UN rep and Janet Sigal, Ph.D., APA UN rep. With backs to camera, left to right, Florence Denmark, Ph.D., IAAP and ICP UN rep and Richard Velayo, Ph.D., ICP UN rep.

The theme for 2012 was: “Human Rights for Vulnerable People: Psychological Contributions and the United Nations Perspective.” The topic was chosen because achieving human rights is an ongoing major mission of the United Nations and its extended community.

The three panels, with multiple speakers, addressed the topics of:

- Mental Health and Sustainable Development
- Refugees and Psychosocial Well-Being
- Poverty Eradication in the Lives of Women and Children

The third panel dovetails well with the themes of the recent United Nations Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, both of which focused on poverty eradication. Poverty eradication is #1 of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which the member states governments have pledged to address from 2000-2015. Detailed reports about the advocacy of the IAAP UN representatives at these Commissions and on these issues are included in this issue.

Illustrious speakers on that panel included Ms. Telma Viale, the Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of the International Labour Organization Office for the United Nations. Importantly, Ms. Viale is also a psychologist and meetings of the IAAP UN reps with her have revealed her insights into, and commitment to, psychological dynamics being integral to considerations of labour, employment and work. Another honored speaker is Dr. Stuart C. Carr from the Poverty Research Group and Industrial and Organisational Psychology Programme at Massey University, New Zealand, who has written about Psychology and Poverty, and has worked in Indonesia, Australia, Thailand, Geneva, and UNESCO in France. He also presented at the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) weekly NGO Briefing, which took place on the morning of Psychology Day at United Nations.

Psychosocial well-being is clearly a major subject of importance to IAAP, as the title of IAAP's new journal is "Applied Psychology: Health and Well-being." It is also an issue about which the psychology NGOs accredited at the UN are advocating at the United Nations. More detailed articles about this subject are in this Bulletin. The panel on "Psychosocial Well-Being of Refugees" featured Ms. Grainne O'Hara, Senior Policy Advisor for the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); as well as Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith, Ph.D., originally from Sierra Leone and currently Assistant Professor of Psychology at City University of New York and Katherine Porterfield, Ph.D., both of whom are staff psychologists at the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture.

Panelists discussing "Mental Health and Sustainable Development" included Vijay Ganju, CEO of the World Federation of Mental Health; Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, Associate Professor at Georgetown University Medical School, and Richard Dougherty, President of BasicNeeds US, an NPO focusing on poverty and human rights, with programs in Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Nepal.

"Psychology plays a major role in achieving the global goals of the United Nations as well as of civil society," says Martin Butler, Ph.D., Co-Chair of the 2012 Psychology Day at the UN and NGO Representative to the United Nations for the International Association of Applied Psychology. "We are very pleased that this year's Psychology Day at the UN brings many academicians and advocates together with UN staff to exchange psychological principles and United Nations perspectives on the crucial topic of human rights for vulnerable peoples."

Past Psychology Days at the UN have addressed the topic of "Psychology and Diplomacy" including "Negotiating Humanitarian Access" and the "Human Aspects of Diplomacy" as well as the topic of "The Role of Psychology in Achieving Universal Access to Education," specifically focused on projects encouraging STEM education for girls.

“Psychology Day at the United Nations” is an annual event sponsored by psychology organizations that have Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The event offers UN staff, ambassadors and diplomats, NGO representatives, members of the public and private sectors, students, invited experts, guests, media and other stakeholders, the opportunity to learn what psychologists contribute to the United Nations, to exchange ideas and to establish partnerships on global issues. All IAAP members who plan to be in New York at that time are welcome.

We look forward to bringing you a full update on the day’s events in a future issue.

– Submitted by IAAP UN representatives Mary O’Neill Berry and Judy Kuriansky

Part 4

“Culture of Peace: Amplifying the Unseen and Unheard Voices of Peace”: Briefing of the UN Department of Public Information/ NGO section

This first briefing of the year of the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) was on the topic of “Culture of Peace: Amplifying the Unseen and Unheard Voices of Peace.” Held on 19 January 2012, it was attended by over 150 NGO representatives and consisted of presentations by four panelists and a Q & A session.

The moderator, DPI Chief of NGO Relations Maria-Luisa Chavez remarked how appropriate it was to be discussing the theme of culture of peace at the first briefing of the year, “because isn’t that what we are all working for?” Ms. Chavez asked that we all take a moment to honor those who had come before us in the pursuit of peace, including Mahatma Gandhi, Dag Hammarskjold, Martin Luther King Jr. and others. King once stated, “Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.” Ms. Chavez defined a culture of peace as “a set of values, attitudes, modes of behavior and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by attacking the root causes.” The foundation for a culture of peace emerged from the end of the two world wars. A culture of peace will only take hold, she said, if people at all levels can effectively work together in harmony for the good of all. Individuals and civil society play an important role in influencing governments to work toward a sustainable culture of peace.

A short film entitled “Winning Peace” was shown, about the pain of war and the promise of peace (www.bigpicturesmallworld.com/movies/winningpeace). The film presented the fact that \$2.3 billion is spent on war every day, and asked the question whether the people who are making money from war are the same ones dying because of war. The definition of peace provided by the movie is “a dynamic process filled with physical, mental and spiritual well being, health, vision, imagination, wonder, capacity, growth and nourishment for all.” The movie reminds us that “all that is needed to wage peace is nothing more than our commitment, their involvement; nothing more than working together for everyone . . . with persistence, grace and love.”



*His Excellency Ambassador
Anwarul K. Chowdhury.*

Panelist His Excellency Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury is a former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations. He described that over his service from 2002 to 2007, he focused on development in some of the world's most vulnerable countries, but that his current focus is on promoting a Culture of Peace. "The UN declared a culture of peace for the decade 2001-2010, but we must continue the spirit," he said. He reviewed the history of how we have reached this point in a Culture of Peace, including the work of Martin Luther King and Gandhi, quoting that "Admittedly, nonviolence in the truest sense is not a strategy but one uses simply because it is expedient at the moment. Nonviolence is ultimately a way of life that men live by because of the sheer morality of its claim." The year 2012 has started off as a good year, he said, because the President of the General Assembly announced "reaffirming its commitment to follow up on the declaration and programme of action on the culture of peace and the general assembly adopted, by consensus, a resolution emphasizing

the need for their effective and full implementation." The President of the General Assembly then called upon governments and civil society to do similarly, i.e. to implement the declaration and programme of action for the Culture of Peace. Ambassador Chowdhury, a trustee of the New York City Peace Museum, spoke of his spearheading a pioneering initiative of the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, which led to the adoption of the landmark Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and proclamation of the "International Decade for Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)." It took nine long months to articulate this programme of action. When working with other delegations, he has asked himself, "How come peace is such a controversial action?" The declaration for the Decade for The Culture of Peace, along with the Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Charter, are documents that transcend boundaries, which are for eternity and for the whole of humanity. Ambassador Chowdhury identified five action items that need to be followed through now that 11 years have passed since the declaration for the Culture of Peace was introduced: (1) the eight areas for action in the declaration need to be followed through throughout the UN system. Civil society has taken charge of this matter, with hundreds of NGOs at the country level working to promote this, but country officers of the UN need to highlight the emphasis that the UN is giving to the culture of peace; (2) women's role in the culture of peace needs to be recognized given that Security Council resolution 1325 has provided the mandate to make this happen; (3) young people must be engaged, for example, peace education should be included in all educational institutions; (4) each one of us must become agents of peace by integrating the culture of peace into every day of our lives; and (5) we should bring in the values and importance of spirituality. He ended by saying that "There is a growing movement to ask for recognition of the human right to peace, a culture of peace, now and forever."

Panelist Dr. Dorothy "Dot" Maver, President of the National Peace Academy in the USA as well as Executive Director of the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding, echoed the importance of having the first DPI briefing address the topic of peace, and acknowledged that such a meeting is taking place at the same time as the UN Youth Assembly, since youth can play an important role in peace. She shared her thoughts and experiences regarding the "heretofore invisible field of peace" and that this year promises to reveal the culture of peace that already exists. She spoke of "shifting from a culture wrought with violence and dysfunction where human needs are not met, to a culture of peace and justice, loving and understanding, where sharing truth and reconciliation prevails and where all

human needs are met and there is true equity.” She stated that, “On July 9th 2011, humanity made history when Sudan became North Sudan and South Sudan and for the first time in history, a country, South Sudan, included a Minister of Peace at the federal level of their government.” Dr. Maver is a member of the Leadership Council for, the Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures of Peace. Notably, there are now four ministries of peace in the world: in the Solomon Islands, Nepal, Costa Rica and South Sudan. The Global Alliance recognizes the importance of peace education; over 400 programs at the university level are beginning to offer advanced degrees (Ph.D.s) in peacebuilding. A 90-day initiative focused on the UN International Day of Peace on September 21 has been created and already more than 50 groups, many in the room, have committed to the “big audacious goal” of reaching one billion people (www.push4peace.org). Dr. Maver ended her speech by saying, “It is time to tell the new story; the story of peace. To make peace an organizing principle in society and to intentionally offer our personal and group contributions for the good of all.”

Panelist Michael O’Malley, program associate at the UN Liaison Office of Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist organization working for peace, culture and education with chapters in 90 countries, first became aware of the culture of peace through the lecture series called “The Culture of Peace Distinguished Speakers Series” organized by the American Chapter of Soka Gakkai. The lecture series began in 2007, with Ambassador Chowdhury as the inaugural speaker. Mr. O’Malley came to recognize the culture of peace as a vision built on the understanding that in order to achieve a sustainable peace, we must foster a culture that values human rights, education, gender equality, nonviolence, democratic participation, freedom of information, and sustainable development. These make up the eight actions in the Declaration for the Culture of Peace. He emphasized that member states cannot legislate culture and that culture is determined by the collective attitudes and beliefs of that member state. He reminded us that fostering a culture of peace is the work of individual’s daily actions. Mr. O’Malley is also a member of a group of civil society organizations at the UN committed to building a culture of peace named “The Global Movement for a Culture of Peace” (www.gmcop.org). The group intends to connect civil society organizations that are working toward a culture of peace.

Panelist Cora Weiss is the United Nations representative for the International Peace Bureau and President of the Hague Appeal for Peace (www.haguepeace.org). The Hague Appeal for Peace produced the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century, a 50-point agenda for moving from a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace. The Hague Appeal for Peace has partnered with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and with peace educators in Peru, Albania, Niger and Cambodia to help integrate peace education into the curriculum for teacher training and into primary and secondary school. She asked, “How do we get from a culture of violence to a culture of peace?” and reminded the audience that “A culture of peace is not only the absence of war, but must be the presence of human security and justice.” She suggested that we need another UN Resolution with the help of NGOs to get there. Much of Ms. Weiss’s speech focused on the important role disarmament plays in creating a culture of peace, referring to how the New York and Moscow General Assemblies recently drafted a joint declaration saying “no” to nuclear weapons and nuclear power, and to the point that “Every billion dollars spent on the military creates 2 1/2 times fewer jobs than spending on education.” She asked, “Is that a culture of peace?” She said, “WWW stands for world without war, and don’t forget it!” and invoked the audience to stand up for “A World Without War.” According to the Hague Agenda for Peace, a culture of peace will be achieved when the citizens of the world understand global problems; have the skills to resolve conflict; struggle for justice nonviolently; live by international standards of human rights and equity; appreciate cultural diversity; and respect the earth and each other. Such learning can only

be achieved by systematic education on peace, by one that does not glorify war, and by one that is required to create a culture of peace (www.peace-ed-campaign.org). Ms. Weiss also emphasized the role women play as agents of peace. Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security calls for participation of women at all levels of governance and at all peacemaking tables. Building upon this thought she lauded that three women had been named Nobel laureates in 2011 for their peacemaking abilities and encouraged the audience to visit the Nobel website to read their speeches (www.nobel.org). To emphasize the defining role of women, she asked the question, “How did grandma resolve conflict with grandpa?” and answered, “She said ‘Eat first, we’ll talk later,’ showing that grandma had necessary skills that she could have taught conflict resolution.” Another point she emphasized was the important role civil society plays in contributing to a culture of peace, emphasized in the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, drafted by a group of Spanish lawyers who were part of civil society. The universal declaration on human rights in the UN charter mentions every right except for the right to peace. Ms. Weiss emphasized that civil society has to make sure that their views are included in this declaration, which is now in front of the Human Rights Council. She aptly ended the briefing by reminding the audience, “Remember, WWW = a world without war. No human security, no culture of peace.”

During the question and answer period of the briefing, the youth representative of The Railroad Street, Freed Man, asked the panel what role youth would be playing in creating and maintaining a Culture of Peace, and what the older generation could do to empower youth to do so. Ambassador Chowdhury replied, “Transform yourself into a peaceful and non-violent person, and share your peaceful nature.” The youth representative of the Breaking Wolves project, Ryan Smith, asked the panel how civil society can help youth become peacemakers. Dot Maver emphasized that, “Youth are the new story and education is critical!” For more information on peace education, Cora Weiss suggested that the audience read three books found at www.makepeace.org. Audience member Marianne Perez spoke of her new initiative, Peace is Sexy, which redefines peace as sexy, possible, profitable and fun (<http://www.indiegogo.com/Peace-Is-Sexy>). She asked the panel how she could help to bridge the gap between the people in the room and the mainstream. In response, Ambassador Chowdhury invoked the audience not to buy violent toys for kids, give them a toy gun, or allow them to see violent movies. On a personal note, he shared that he gave his grandson the gift of letter blocks to put together that spell the word “peace.” Finally, Melvin Weiner representing Pathways to Peace, reminded the audience, “Everyone here is ‘a Pathway to Peace.’”

– *Submitted by IAAP UN Intern Emily Lawson and IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky*

Part 5

A Multi-Faceted Approach to Universal Wellbeing: Brain Education as a New Tool to Help Alleviate Poverty and Promote Equality

Even though many global actions have been taken to ease poverty and further equality, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. To address this problem, the International Brain Education Association (IBREA) and the Korean Institute of Brain Science (KIBS) held a conference on 12 January 2012. The conference focused on the ECOSOC (UN Economic and Social Council)

2012 theme of “promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

The interactive discussion, from 1:15 PM until 3:15 PM, shared different perspectives, ranging from the humanitarian to the neuroscience view of poverty. Adama Diop, Vice President of CoNGO (Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations) gave opening remarks for the conference. Speaking about the efforts of a Senegalese woman fighting for women’s rights, she advised, “It is important to work in collaboration, government, civil society, and private sector. NGOs can do a lot of good work, but it has to be in collaboration with men of state.”

Panelist Remongar T. Dennis, Deputy Permanent Representative of Liberia to the UN, talked about the civil crisis in Liberia. He stressed, “According to the United Nations report, every second, 25 thousand people [and] children die all over the world. They died not because of where they were born. They died because mankind has not undertaken the right approach. Mankind has not sufficiently dedicated himself to saving people to answer the subject of poverty around the world. In spite of all these efforts, more needs to be done to reduce poverty.” Furthermore, he equated children to the “bedrock of society.” These children need to have the “right attention, right training, and right assistance, so that tomorrow’s world will be better.” He also mentioned that IBREA has a realistic approach that helps children recover their confidence. Many years ago, there were 17 least developed countries; today, there are 48 least developed countries. This indicates that more needs to be done to reduce poverty. He also stressed that 1 billion people live in poverty today, and new problems come up with no solution.

Elizabeth Carll, PhD, Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health, quoted former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan that the “biggest enemy of health in the developing world is poverty.” She emphasized the fact that health does not exist without mental health; people in poverty lack financial resources, good living standards, and educational opportunities. As a result, they are less able to access good quality health care. These factors put them at high risk for developing mental disorders. People with mental illness are more likely to fall into poverty; those with mental health disorders have the highest rate of unemployment. The cumulative local impact of mental disorders in terms of lost economic output equates to 16 thousand billion dollars over 20 years. Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide. Depression will be the #2 chronic illness by 2020 and #1 in 2030, which means it will supercede cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Fewer than 10 – 25% of those with mental health disorder have access to effective treatment. Having HIV/AIDS can create a significant psychological impact. Mental illness can affect the central nervous system such as dementia; it is also a risk factor for non-communicable diseases (including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and respiratory illness). Positive mental health will allow people to cope with adversity. Good mental health will develop coping skills that will bring oneself out of poverty. People, who don’t have mental health services, depend on family members. These people are more likely to recover and find employment to provide for their families. In other words, treating mental disorders will eradicate poverty.

Panelist George Gray Molina, Chief Economist for UNDP-Latin America and the Caribbean, explained how the UN is eradicating poverty. The missing dimension of development and poverty reduction is discussing the fear of violence, the avoidance of shame and humiliation in daily life, empowerment, dignity in legal work, and other issues that are hard to measure. He quoted Robert Kennedy, former U.S. Attorney General, who said, “Our gross national product . . . counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts

special locks for our doors and the jails for those who break them. It counts the destruction of our redwoods and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and the cost of a nuclear warhead, and armored cars for police who fight riots in our streets. It counts [rifles], and the television programs, which glorify violence in order to sell, toys [for] our children. Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry . . . the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither wit nor courage, neither wisdom nor learning. It measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.”

As a lead singer of a rock band and neuroscientist at NYU, Joseph E. LeDoux, Ph.D., spoke about his research on memory and emotion as well as how the brain works. The three levels of the brain that need to be understood are the behavior, the brain systems, and the cellular and molecular level. The human brain, like all products of evolution, is a continuous work in progress. There is no connection between thinking and emotion in the brain. However, there is tremendous connectivity of emotional centers to the cortex of the brain. Once a person is stuck on an anxious thought or depression, he or she cannot easily will it away. Moods will occupy conscious thoughts. It's harder for thoughts to take over emotions. “This is why therapy exists, to externalize emotions,” he said. “The therapist helps put these emotions back into the brain in a way to make them healthier. Long-term stress degenerates neurons.” Anxiety is the #1 health issue along with depression, he explained. The amygdala in the brain detects danger that leads to a fear response. A damaged amygdala leads to a low fear response. Stress and trauma leads to poor memory function and poor job performance. This can lead to unemployment and poverty. There is research in getting rid of fear in rats through behavior. This is applied to human therapy. Kids should be taught stress reduction techniques before they get stressed, he recommended, so that they can easily develop these techniques. This should start in preschool to become part of daily life. Physiological reactions affect emotions. Autonomic nervous system has two components: the sympathetic nervous system that drives the flight or fright response and the parasympathetic Nervous system that slows down flight or fright response. For example, controlling breathing can reduce stress.

With the help of a translator, Ilchi Lee, Founder and President of IBREA, spoke about our potential to alleviate poverty and promote universal well-being with Brain Education. People can achieve happiness and peace when they find potential in themselves. It is simply how that potential is developed, and whether society provides the environment necessary to reach our potential. “People need to have belief in themselves to get anything done,” he said. “Brain education consists of a five-stage process of awakening the brain through meditation, whereby people can achieve happiness and peace. Those who know how to reach the potential of the brain are more successful in society. Those who are not able to use the full potential of their brain are adjusting in society, and become dependent on other people for their happiness.” He showed a video of trainers in El Salvador utilizing the Brain Education program, in which 8th graders took breathing and meditation classes. In the beginning, students were reluctant to take the class; however, once they took the class, the students became happier. He related the case of Laura, a young girl who was an 8th grader when she was raped by her stepfather, who died. After taking the classes, Laura had more confidence and the goal to study harder, go to college and get a job. The biggest change for Laura is that she now wants to take care of her baby.

Incorrect goals or methods have been used to reduce poverty because the number of least developed countries increased from 17 to 48. Over the past 8 years, 500 million people increased their average salary. “If we made that economic effort, we can see an increase in advancement. Economic progress does not correlate with happiness,” he said. The measure of happiness in South Korea is

a lot lower than countries that are not as economically successful. South Korea was able to achieve growth from a dire situation because of leadership, which is the combination of instilling hope and utilizing viable plans. The year 2012 is important because this is the year when the heads of 58 states will change. The people of those countries will elect their leaders. This will determine the future of humanity. Poverty is a human issue. No single country or religion will solve the problem of poverty. All of humanity must address this issue together. In the end, each individual person in our society needs to awaken to his or her own value, and have this evolution of consciousness. In other words, while the conferences are important, we need a spiritual movement that we can incorporate in our own daily lives. Neighboring countries need to help each other instead of fighting, so that we can create a new history.

Finally, Dr. Dan Pavel, M.D., showed the positive effects of Brain Education documented by Brain SPECT. He explained that the purpose is to prove the presence of effect on gray matter metabolism; the more blood flow in the brain, the more metabolism in the brain. The sample included adults who needed a better balance in life. The protocol was a three-month pilot test with results before and after the training, with the Brain SPECT showing changes after the training. The results showed that the hyper-functioning and under-functioning area of the brain increased; there were increased feelings of well-being; weight loss; decreased anxiety and depression; increased energy; spontaneous actions of appreciation (talking enthusiastically about the program, bringing in new participants, suggesting initiative, etc.); and increased blood flow in the brain.

– Submitted by Alicia Cho, IAAP UN Intern

Part 6

The 10th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations: UNWIRED: Leveraging New Media for Sustainability

Each year, the United Nations hosts the Youth Assembly to bring global youth leaders together. Over the two days of this year's Youth Assembly, Thursday and Friday, 19-20 January 2012, panelists presented their involvement with the UN and NGOs, focusing on how to leverage new media.

The goals of the Youth Assembly (YA) at the UN are to provide access to and information about the work, successes and challenges of the UN; to encourage youth participation in UN programs, agencies and NGO affiliates; to strengthen commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; to connect with opportunities, mentors, and new associates; to recognize artistic and diplomatic efforts of young people in development and humanitarian initiatives; and to commit to serve and respect this important international institution. See: <http://faf.org/main/youth-assembly-at-the-un/>.

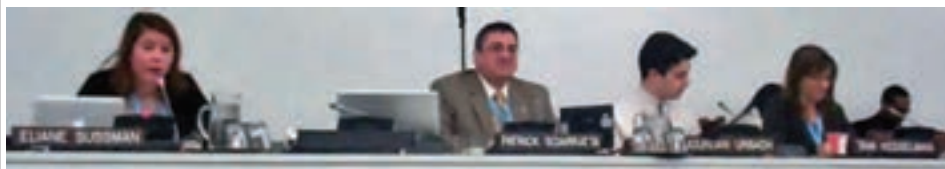
Youth participants come from all over the world to UN headquarters in New York. The fee is between \$65 to \$100. The Youth Assembly is a project of Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc. and sponsored by several Permanent Missions to the UN, with participation of international

NGOs, UN Agencies, universities and civil society organizations. The director, Patrick Sciaratta, is the creative and inspiring force behind the events. Exceptionally informed about UN issues, and a faculty member at Purchase College (SUNY), he is regularly invited to address youth leadership issues worldwide. The conference was live-streamed at www.wupy.tv.

This year IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky was invited to be a plenary speaker; the session at which she presented is described below.

DAY ONE, 19 January 2012:

MORNING SESSION; Youth Assembly Welcome



YA 2012 panelists during the YA Welcome, from left to right: Eliane Sussman, YA Director Patrick Sciaratta, Jourdan Urbach, Tami Kesselman, and Syed Mafiz Kamal.

Tami Kesselman, YA Co-Chair and UnWired 4 MDG Solutions Global Campaign Co-Chair and Lead Administrator, introduced the morning panel. Focusing on the UnWired generation and youth leveraging technology for the Millennium Development Goals, this session also revolved around youth leadership and ability to solve problems more efficiently. After this welcome, Jourdan Urbach, Violinist and UN Artist in Residence, roused the audience with his fast-paced violin performance. Patrick Sciaratta, YA Project Director and Executive Director of Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, explained that FAF creates cultural exchange opportunities, and astounded the audience with the story that the program brought a young boy from Ghana to the United States, and that boy grew up to be former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan! Sciaratta expressed his hope – and belief – that the next Secretary General of the UN is present in the Youth Assembly being held now. Amanda Angri, NGO/DPI Youth Delegate, gave a special report from the NGO/DPI Youth Committee and talked about her personal UN experiences related to the MDGs. Angri co-founded NGO called “Youth Organizers United to Help” (YOU) which educates students about MDGs and different aspects of the UN; through this, she has taught Arabic and Spanish classes.

The MDGs and the Young Professional



Panelists, from left to right: Amanda Angri, Jamie Ansonge, Jourdan Urbach, and Jonas Haertle.

Jamie Ansonge, Co-Founder of the International Youth Council (YA Alum NGO), served as moderator of the panel on “MDGs and the Young Professional.” The first presenter, Jourdan Urbach, described

his life path. A passionate idealist since he was seven years old, Urbach, the 2010 recipient of the World of Children Nobel Prize for Global Child Advocacy, buried his nose in a neurology book written by Dr. Fred Epstein, the leading pediatric neurosurgeon in the world. Inspired by the field of neurology, he gained the courage to write Dr. Epstein a letter, and to his surprise, Dr. Epstein invited him to tour the ICU at Beth Israel Hospital. After seeing pediatric patients suffering, Urbach created “Children Helping Children,” raising funds for patients by playing concerts and doing music therapy. He advised the audience to not let someone’s prestige or stature keep them from getting in touch with those high level people, and to follow their dream. After this inspirational story, Jonas Haertle, PRME Secretariat of UN Global Compact, shed light on corporate social responsibility. Five years ago, he started the UN Compact Program, based on Kofi Annan’s idea, which revolved around the importance of getting the corporate sector involved in the work of the UN.

Special Report from the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Doha



YA 2012 panelists during the Special Report from the UNAOC Forum in Doha panel, from left to right: Isabelle Legare, Jamie Ansoerge, Anna Pavlyuchenko, Yin-Chu Jou and Olivia Harris.

Isabelle Legare explained how the Alliance of Civilization was created a few years ago after the Al-Qaeda-inspired bombings in Madrid in March 2004. Since the President of Spain did not want the population of Spain to turn against migrants or people of other religions and culture, he came to the UN with the President of Turkey. They asked Kofi Annan whether they could work together to create the Alliance of Civilization, which would oppose the clash of civilizations. For more information, see the UNAOC Youth Website at www.unaocyouth.org or contact her through email at isabellel@unops.org. Anna Pavlyuchenko, the UNAOC Liason and Projects Officer, further explained the idea to bring together political leaders, civil society, youth representatives, religious leaders, and research institutions, so that all collaborate and debate on different issues pertaining to UNAOC. Yin-Chu Jou, Artistic Director of FAF, explained how she was selected to be in Doha as a delegate for the Pre-Forum Consultation with Civil Society last May. At the conference over three weeks, the moderators inspired youth around the world to partner in the transformative exercise for alliance. Olivia Harris, the Doha Pre-Forum Youth Moderator, is also the Media Communications Director of the Bonn Street Theatre in New York, a humanitarian theatre organization that works all over the world to use the arts to connect on a human level and garner input from other youth who use theatre, choirs, and murals. At the Doha meeting, she reached out across international borders with other artists to see what they were doing and explored issues of trust and tolerance when connecting with youth leaders. They played a video that documented the UNAOC Doha Forum; this is posted on Youtube as the “Official Closing Session – 4th UNAOC Forum.”

NGO Cooperation & Coordination for Sustainable Development



YA 2012 panelists during the NGO Cooperation & Coordination for Sustainable Development panel, from left to right: Miroslav Polzer, Patrick Sciarratta, David Woollcombe, and Jean Paul Brice Affana.

Patrick Sciarratta opened this session on “NGO Cooperation & Coordination for Sustainable Development” by screening the inspirational and energizing video, “8 Goals for Africa” (available on Youtube). He introduced Miroslav Polzer, the Secretary General of IAAI, who explained their mission to work towards global systemic change that would link resources of civil society and youth with the work of the UN. Rio+20 is a conference of sustainable development that will bring the whole world together. With the Rio+20 Global Youth Music Contest, they are convinced that music plays a central role in global transformation in sustainability. Young people can have a voice through music in this conference since music builds bridges between the hearts of the people all over the world. The deadline to submit music on www.global-rockstar.net is March 18th, 2012. Winners will be picked to perform at the Rio+20 conference. David Woollcombe, Founder and President of Peace Child International (PCI) on “Rio+20 Strategies and Preparations: How to Get Involved Now and in Rio,” shared his perspective about how the planet is close to death. He stressed that in order to eradicate poverty, there needs to be a shift from brown economy to green economy.

Conference Room A:

(1) Rio+20 Global Youth Music Contest and Resource Mobilizations Innovations for and by Youth

The importance of music in areas such as politics and therapy were discussed at this side event. For more information, see <http://www.global-rockstar.net/online-resources>.

(2) The MDGs in Asia: How the Beijing Youth Festival pursues the MDGs

This side event described the Beijing Youth Festival, an organization involved with the Youth Assembly in China, that specifically conducts an exchange program. Students design their own posters, lecture, brochures, and adventures in Chinese cities, such as Beijing and Xian. The importance of having a good relationship with the host family as emphasized to make the experience rich. For more information, see <http://eactus.com>

Conference Room B: The Rio+20 And The World Youth Congress On Sustainable Youth led Development: How to get involved and shape the outcomes

During this side event, David Woollcombe explained how we have to get better at meeting virtually to talk about sustainability. He defines green economy as “an economy that enhances the human

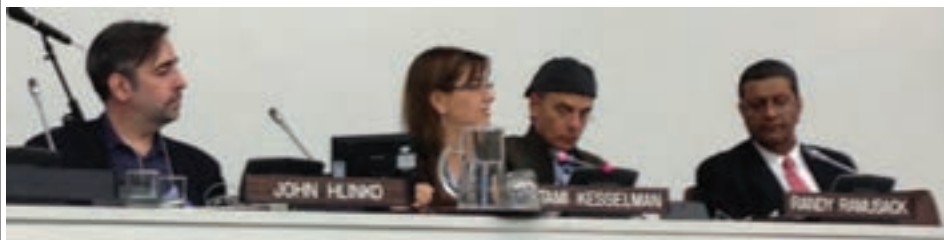
wellbeing and improves social equity, while at the same time conserving biological resources and removing ecological scarcities. “It’s not about the environment. It’s about social equity. It’s about eradicating poverty,” he said. He can be reached at david@peacechild.org. After his introduction, everyone separated into groups to brainstorm ideas of how to promote green economy.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

Interactive Training: Online Measurement Tools for Project Success

Daniella Ballou-Aares, founder of “Global Health Practice,” led the discussion. She explained that people do not know whether they are not having an impact because they miss feedback loops all the way down to an individual level. Technology can be used to solve this issue. She presented a video, “What is the Ushahidi Platform?” that can be seen on Youtube.

UNWired 4 MDG Solutions: Global Campaign Launch



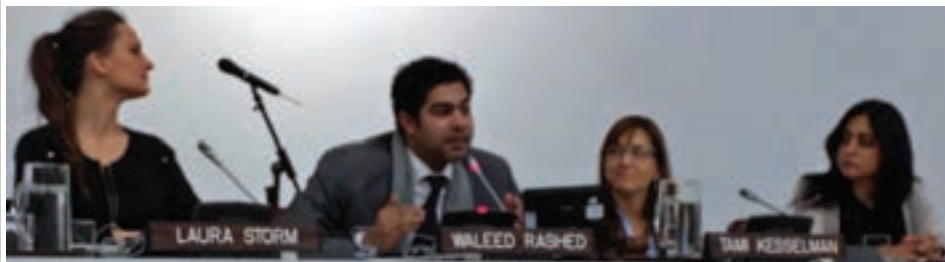
YA 2012 panelists during UNWired 4 MDG Solutions: Global Campaign Launch panel, from left to right: John Hlinko, Tami Kesselman, Randy Ramusack, and Amir Dossal.

High profile speakers showcased technology collaborations, especially as they relate to the four core UNWired tracks: Health, Infrastructure, Education, and Global Development. The session began with the “Message from Earth” video, posted on Youtube. Tami Kesselman announced that people could follow her on Twitter via UNWired4MDG. John Hlinko, author of “Share-Repeat-Retweet: Get Your Message Read and Spread,” talked about tweeting the cause to amplify impact. He stressed that viral marketing via Facebook and Twitter can build a movement because people believe in their friends and family. He advised: To make a message viral online, you must craft spread-worthy content. Also, find those who will spread it, and deliver it in “spread-friendly” places. Hlinko can be reached at 202-744-6545 and John@LeftAction.com. After his presentation, Tami Kesselman showed a video, “Advancing the Web to Empower People: Challenges and Solution,” available on Youtube.

Randy Ramusack, UN Technology Advisor of Microsoft, talked about looking after the UN in terms of focusing on technology, solutions, policy innovation, and social responsibility programs. Working with the UN Refugees Agency (UNHCR), they created a system that gave identities to refugees who have lost their original identity. He is trying to make a Facebook-like system that allows refugees to give their personal information, with the idea that if other people on the Internet knew the refugee’s information, they would be able to identify the person. His Twitter is RandyRamusack.

Amir Dossal, Founder and Chairman of Global Partnerships Forum and Former Director of UN Office for Partnerships, stated that the Broadband Commission allows access to information and Internet in developing countries. He said that there are 2 billion people out there with no access to the Internet but if they have access to information, they become members of society. His Twitter is AmirDossal.

Ramusack seconded the whole idea of the Broadband Commission; Microsoft is also one of the commissioners. The purpose is to provide access to information in places that don't have access. While there are new technologies and ideas, the problem is policy. People can influence the policy of the governments to see how policy can be put in place. These policy issues are the ones that need to be talked through carefully since once these policies are in place, they are very hard to change.



YA 2012 panelists during the UNWired 4 MDG Solutions: Global Campaign Launch panel, from left to right: Laura Storm, Waleed Rashed, Tami Kesselman, and Shaifali Puri.

The next afternoon panel revolved around Health and Infrastructure (Social and Physical). Laura Storm, Representative of Project Green Light / Sustainia, shared her vision of what a sustainable world would look like, and be like to live in. She showed a trailer of Sustainia. People can join Sustainia on Facebook or follow on Twitter (@sustainia_me). The "Guide to Sustainia" can be downloaded on sustainia.me.

The next panelist, Waleed Rashed, Co-founder and Spokesperson of April 6 Movement in Cairo, said that even though Gandhi and Martin Luther King didn't have Facebook, they started a revolution. In other words, while technology facilitates a revolution, it is not needed to start it. His Twitter is WaleedRashed.

Shaifali Puri, the Executive Director of Scientists Without Borders, explained how Scientists Without Borders is a public and private partnership with the NY Academy of Sciences in conjunction with the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the UN Millennium Project. The organization provides a platform for users around the world to share and create solutions for the development challenges. They work with strategic partners, multilateral corporations, NGOs, governments to design and execute innovation-based approaches to accelerate science and technology solutions to global challenges. Her Twitter is SciWithoutBord.

DAY TWO (20 January 2012):

MORNING SESSION

Official Welcome to the United Nations



YA 2012 panelists during the Official Welcome to the UN and Emerging Digital Technology and the MDGs panel, from left to right: Jeremy Heimans, Roland Rich, H.E. Eugene-Richard Gasana, and Tami Kesselman.

Tami Kesselman moderated the morning session and Roland Rich, Officer-in-Charge of the UN Office for Partnerships, officially welcomed the Youth Assembly participants. He explained that the concept of dignity has been resurrected over the last 12 months or so, due to what is happening in the Arab World as well as how people view human rights.

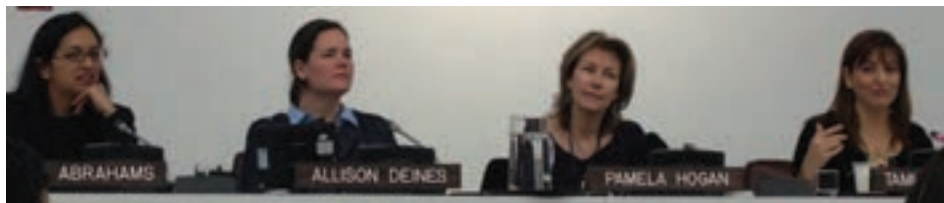
Honored guest of the YA Conference, His Excellency Eugene-Richard Gasana, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the UN, shared how Rwanda managed to rebuild its nation, despite its difficult past. Rwanda believes strongly in the role of technology in development. More importantly, the youth are vital in making that transition.



Emerging Digital Technology and the MDGs

Jeremy Heimans explained the process of becoming a H.E. Eugene-Richard Gasana giving his speech. movement entrepreneur. He started the largest political movement, “GetUp! Action for Australia,” in 2005. His Twitter accounts are Jeremyheimans and purpose. His emails are Jeremy@purpose.com and jobs@purpose.com.

The Role of Celebrity, New Media, Technology & Traditional Press in Issue Awareness



YA 2012 panelists during The Role of Celebrity, New Media, Technology & Traditional Press in Issue Awareness panel, from left to right: Tara Abrahams, Allison Deines, Pamela Hogan, and Tami Kesselman.

Panelists for “The Role of Celebrity, New Media, Technology, & Traditional Press in Issue Awareness,” included Tara Abrahams, Allison Deines, and Pamela Hogan. The moderator of the panel, Tami Kesselman, began the last session by prompting the 250 or so young, future world leaders to give rousing applause for the three women who were about to show video clips of how they leveraged celebrity and new media to further their important work with young boys and girls, and women, in the developing world. And, in a nod to the theme of Youth Leveraging Technology for the MDGs, Tami asked how many of the young attendees were watching the live stream of the conference on their computers. Not surprisingly, a large number of hands went up. The first panel member to speak was Tara Abrahams, Deputy Director of 10x10 (www.10x10act.org), a feature film and social action campaign created and launched by a team of award-winning former ABC journalists who use storytelling to deliver the single message: Educating girls in developing nations will change the world. Tara told of how several years ago, a prominent individual, who must remain nameless, approached her team at The Documentary Group, a documentary production company to ask them to make a film about how they would end global poverty. The feature film 10x10 is their answer to that question. The research is there and the evidence is clear that educating girls helps eradicate poverty. The goal of 10x10 is to use the power of storytelling to change the world.

Some short video clips from the feature film were shown, including the story of Melka, a 20-something young woman in Ethiopia who tells the story of her harrowing experience as a 14-year old child bride. Her family forced her to marry a much older man who along with his friends beat her. This beating resulted in a 30-day hospitalization and subsequent arrest of her family members and the man she was forced to marry when nurses called the police. She was ostracized from her family, and forced to forge her own path. She began teaching at a school and used her experience to teach other young girls about their rights and how to be strong and avoid a similar fate. Melka is just one example of hundreds of girls the members of the 10x10 organization meet in the field; Melka's story, Abrahams said, "demonstrates the power of individual girls to express themselves to tell their own story." The 10x10 organization is also partnering with other groups such as girlup.org to get their message out that if you educate girls, you change the world.

Allison Deines, the National Director of Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, is responsible for working with young people to convert their passion into successful community service projects. She helps young people develop project management skills that can transform grass-roots action into sustainable programs. This was demonstrated in an inspirational and humorous video where youth leaders of the Roots & Shoots program were asked which superpower they would choose without knowing the context of the question. One bubbly girl who looked to be about 14, said that she wished she could speak every language in the world so that she could solve any conflicts due to lack of understanding. That kind of compassion and problem-solving was discussed throughout the two-day Youth Assembly. The message of the video was that you don't have to have super powers to change the world.

The next speaker was the self-proclaimed "buzz-kill" of the panel, Pamela Hogan, who would "not be talking about cute kids, but women, war and peace." Pamela is the award-winning producer and director of the five-part documentary series "Women, War and Peace," which aired on PBS in October 2011. The documentaries challenge the age-old notions that war and peace is men's domain. Hogan told the story of how she was inspired to create the documentary when she visited the War Museum in Paris, the largest of its kind in the world, with her two young sons and realized that she had not seen a single image of a woman. She and her friend, Gini Reticker, who was working on a film about the role of women in the Liberian war, wanted to address the invisibility of women in war. A video clip shown explains that in modern warfare, women and children are often the victims and that rape has increasingly become a tool of war used by combatants. The series tells the stories of women in the conflict zones of Bosnia, Colombia, Liberia and Afghanistan with voiceover by famous actors including Matt Damon, Tilda Swinton and Geena Davis. Hogan credited the involvement of celebrities for providing important exposure for the groundbreaking message in the film, which resulted in viewership of 12 million people. She also stressed that it was important that the story they told was not about women as victims, but a story of everyday heroes.

While each of the speakers shared different messages, there was common thread of the role of celebrity as well as the importance of technology in assisting to get that message across to the world, including to the young people attending the conference. Abrahams put it best when she said "We are using new technologies that are available and celebrity to engage people all over the world, and to invite them to get to know these girls. What that helps us do is to build a community and an audience, which is the primary goal. But we don't want to just stop there. We also want the people who are seeing our films and the content, to take specific, measurable and tangible action on behalf of girls." Abrahams also made the connection to the women that Hogan covered in "Women, War and Peace" saying, "Our girls are your women," to which Hogan replied, "One of the greatest obstacles to girls' education is conflict." This exchange demonstrated the interconnectedness of the issues covered in this incredibly important panel.

Mobile Money: Unpacking the Mobile Hype: Evidence from the Case Study of Haiti

Matt Shakhovskoy, Project Manager at Dalberg Global Development Advisors, presented the fascinating case of mobile money as a new concept for the developing world. Mobile money means essentially having a money wallet, whereby transactions can be done over the phone. You can carry many credit cards, or as an alternative through this system, you can store money in a mobile phone with a mobile phone number. The mobile phone business has spawned mobile magnates, like Vodaphone (in places like Africa and Digicel in Haiti). His company has been testing mobile devices to do banking, applied in Kenya and in Haiti, with opposite results. It started in Kenya. M-Pesa (M for mobile, pesa is Swahili for money) is the product name of a mobile-phone based money transfer service for Safaricom, which is an affiliate of Telkom Kenya and Vodafone. (M-Pesa was initially developed by Sagentia before transitioning to IBM). Interestingly, Txteagle, an “artificial intelligence” system, enables the 3 billion mobile phone subscribers living in the developing world to earn small amounts of money by completing simple tasks for companies who pay them in airtime or M-Pesa.

The concept is that people can do all their banking on a hand-held device. The viability in these settings is that the people cannot get to banks and even that banks and the banking system have been crippled (as by the earthquake in Haiti). Despite the advantages, people have to trust the system, and this has been an impediment. The experiment with branchless banking in Kenya has shown some promise, and success, but while there are 14 million active members, people sign up and then do not use the service. Branchless banking has nine percent of Safaricom’s annual revenues at 4 million USD. The benefits include increased access to financial services, draw-down of the cost with mobile phones, and increased diversity. The system also encourages innovative new applications, spawns a whole new industry of ancillary businesses, and allows people the ability to transfer money to each other through this platform. There are already international remittances via mobile technologies. In Haiti, however, out of 7,500 beneficiaries, after three months only 36 people used the mobile money transfer, meaning it did not work.

A Youth Assembly participant, Haitian student Sophonie Zidor, noted that she can see the problems of having this system in her country, where people do not use credit cards and after the earthquake 40-60% of the banking was destroyed. Shuyao Kong, a Smith student from China and Dr. Judy Kuriansky’s intern, asked about why the program was successful in Kenya; the answer being that people understood the system and it was consistent with consumer behavior.

Shakhovskoy asked the audience to raise their hands if they were optimistic about the system, with a less-than-strong showing. He concluded the session with admitting that the system is still in its infancy, has a long way to go to be adopted worldwide, and challenged the audience with the question, “Is this an emerging game changer or a development fad?”

The Infrastructure: The People’s Democracy/Governance 4.0, a Case Study of Egypt

Waleed Rashed led the discussion for this workshop. He explained how it is hard for Egyptians to change their mind; some of them have Stockholm Syndrome, in regards to Mubarek. His email address is WaleedRashed83@yahoo.com.

The Health: Collaborative Platforms for Expert Innovations: Emerging Markets Case Study

Shaifali Puri led this afternoon discussion. She described in further detail about her organization, which is a collaborative community sharing innovative science and technology solutions to pressing global development challenges. They promote open innovation and transparency, so that solutions, information, and capacity can be accessed and sustainably deployed wherever needed. “Open

innovation” is looking outside of traditional spheres of expertise for answers and inviting in as many diverse problem-solvers as possible for fresh eyes, new perspectives, and novel approaches. This is also known as crowd-sourcing. Her website is www.scientistswithoutborders.org. Other crowd-sourcing and open innovation organizations include Innocentive (www.innocentive.com), Ushahidi (www.ushahidi.com), Foldit (www.fold.it/portal), ChallengePost (www.challengepost.com), Refugees United (www.refunite.org), FrontlineSMS (www.frontlinesms.com), Challenge.gov (www.challenge.gov), Mobile Active (www.mobileactive.org), Savings Lives At Birth (www.savinglivesartbirth.net).

Unwired Workshop: mHealth 101 – Understanding the Mobile Health Revolution (Lisa Lee, Project Leader, Dalberg Global Development Advisors)

In the Unwired Workshop: mHealth 101 – Understanding the Mobile Health Revolution, a side event, Lisa Lee, a young and enthusiastic Project Leader with Dalberg Global Development Advisors began the breakout session by asking the overflowing room of future world leaders to raise their hand if they’ve heard of mobile health (mHealth). Only a few tentative hands were raised, which is not surprising given the relative newness of mHealth. Ms. Lee broadly described mobile health as “any use of mobile technology to address health challenge.” Mobile health echoes the changes in Western healthcare provision in the traditional sense, in that there is a paradigm shift occurring due to digitization, where the patient’s information is coming to them rather than the patient having to seek out their information from the healthcare system. Ms. Lee provided examples of mHealth applications such as data collection and disease surveillance, treatment adherence and appointment reminders, emergency medical response systems, health information systems and support tools for health workers, and disease prevention and health promotion. When putting mHealth in the context of developing and rural communities around the world with insufficient access to healthcare, one can see how mHealth can help to address the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, which focus on child and maternal health.

Ms. Lee pointed out that while many people in developing countries may not have access to traditional healthcare, they own a mobile phone. In Kenya, the company Changamka Microhealth Limited is capitalizing on the high mobile phone utilization and high mobile money usage (M-PESA) of the population. They have created fully digitalized health savings accounts where an expectant mother, for example, can purchase a maternal healthcare package at a great discount. Healthcare savings accounts are enabling the population to dedicate money that might otherwise be spent on discretionary items. The Changamka Microhealth Limited business model is also proving to be a sustainable for-profit model, which is encouraging to any other businesses that interested in investing in the developing world.

Another successful and sustainable for-profit mHealth business model is that of Health Management and Research Institute (HMRI) and their “104 Advice” program in India. The “104 Advice” program is a healthcare advice hotline that provides free around-the-clock health information to the residents of Andhra Pradesh. Healthcare workers man the phones and field almost 40,000 calls a day. For those residents in rural areas, “104 Advice” is a free alternative to what is often a lengthy and expensive trip to see a doctor in the city. This program is also an excellent example of a sustainable for-profit business model providing a free service to the citizens of Andhra Pradesh with the assistance of local government subsidies.

One young student from Ghana asked Ms. Lee why the examples she provided seemed to emphasize profit-making rather than the social benefits of mHealth, to which Ms. Lee replied that “For-profit

models demonstrate sustainability, and in order to increase foreign direct investment in these developing countries, program sustainability is important.” Will mHealth be the future of healthcare in the developing world? If the concept proves to be successful and sustainable, mHealth just might become the mechanism that provides access to healthcare for the millions of people around the world who are without access today.

AFTERNOON SESSION

MDGs in Action: An Intergenerational Approach

Patrick Sciaratta introduced the afternoon session by announcing, “Tomorrow’s leaders are today.” He added, “We can all sing ‘Kumbaya’ (a peace song from the 1960s), but we have to take action. Yesterday, the US Government passed an Internet regulation and Wikipedia was closed down, causing outrage. These issues are relevant to the topic of the conference related to the application of technology. But ultimately, it gets down to people. Love Them. Work with each other. We trust you, need you.”



YA 2012 panelists during the “MDGs in Action: An Intergenerational Approach” panel, from left to right: YA Director Patrick Sciaratta, Nigerian NGO Founder Noah Dallaji, moderator Sebastian Mony, IAAP UN rep Dr. Judy Kuriansky, and youth NGO Founder Nejeed Kassam.

Sebastian Mony, President of the International Student Association at Fordham University, moderated the panel, which addressed the topic of “MDGs in Action: An Intergenerational Approach.” Nejeed Kassam is a twenty-five year old law student, activist, and the author of “High on Life: Stories of Hope, Change, and Leadership.” He is the Co-founder and Executive Director of “Networks for Change,” which builds software online to help NGOs with project management and to collaborate with other organizations. It’s offered free for all organizations, and is revolutionary because this model hasn’t existed for NGOs. Utilizing seven of the eight MDGs, he wove a story about Sharifa, a young mother who lives with her two daughters and husband in poverty in rural Pakistan. In the story, Sharifa mourns over the loss of her neighbor’s son and hopes that “someone will help, a government, an NGO, a company, maybe just another human being.” He stressed that with technology, we can help the Sharifas of this world. We can also, as young people with technology and social media skills, harness our skills to help young girls in Africa in projects like the one Dr. Judy will present about.

After Nejeed shared this tragic yet hopeful story, Noah Dallaji, an engineer and Founder of the African Children Talent Development Foundation, presented about the African/Global Children Talent Discovery Foundation (AGCTDF), which is an established NGO commission of Nigeria. Located in New York in the USA, Düsseldorf in Germany, and Stockholm in Sweden, these non-racial, non-religious, and non-political talent hunters and developer organizations look for talented children in the world to enroll them into educational and technological institutions.

The next speaker, Dr. Judy Kuriansky, gave an inspiring speech about how field projects can bridge the gap between generations. Experienced adults, like her with many years of experience in academia,

media and humanitarian work, can design projects that young people can then participate in, and assist with their unique skills, including in technology to make the programs more accessible to a broad number of people. With her experience as a clinical psychologist and media personality, author, radio advice talk show host, TV reporter, and facilitator of peace and trauma recovery projects, Dr Judy does humanitarian work and crisis counseling based on unique combinations of East/West intervention techniques around the world. She stressed that we need to work together as the older generation and the younger generation putting the MDGs in action, and described several of her projects that model this approach. In Haiti, her colleagues include adults, like Haitian priest Father Wismick, colleagues from the NGO she represents at the UN (the International Association of Applied Psychology) and other NGOs, internationally famous composer/musician Russell Daisey and local experts, and also, notably, young people. Students participate in the research and she also gives some students a very unique opportunity by bringing them with her team to the field to do work “on the ground.” In remote areas or disaster zones, it requires effort to find signals to facebook and tweet about the experience. Students at this meeting include IAAP interns Shuyao Kong, Emily Lawson, Alicia Cho and Jeannette Raymond, all of whom are interested in international work. Young people in the local country are also greatly involved. As an example, she trained a team of students as “comforters” after the earthquake in Haiti, teaching them simple techniques they used to help the survivors heal. In particular, she makes partnerships with youth groups in the local culture.



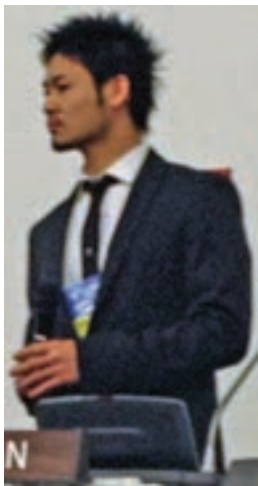
Panel on “MDGs in Action: A Multigenerational Approach Global Case Projects” (in front, left to right): moderator Sebastian Momy, panelist Nejeed Kassam, and Sophonie Zidor, Haitian YA delegate and Global Kids Connect Project (GKCP) trainee; (in back, left to right): GKCP composer Russell Daisey, GKCP and IAAP UN rep Father Wismick Jean Charles, and IAAP UN rep and GKCP founder Dr. Judy Kuriansky.

Dr. Judy explained the process of addressing the MDGs in the context of the Lesotho Girls Empowerment Programme, which empowers girls with entrepreneurship and life skills. Through a camp experience and further training, the girls increase their self-esteem, assertiveness, leadership, and confidence, to be able to pursue income-generating activities to support themselves and their family, and to resist transactional sex, which is the exchange of sex for necessities. She showed a video of the project and also explained the Global Kids Connect Project (GKCP), which is a

support system for children who have suffered a disaster, who write hopeful messages (on hearts, plush figures or indigenous objects) to other children dealing with the aftermath of similar traumatic events. The exchange has taken place between children in Japan, Haiti and America. Video is very useful in telling the story of such projects. Her video of the Global Kids Connect Project shows Haitian children doing simple stress-reducing and energy-boosting exercises she developed as well as bonding over music and learning about other countries and languages. One of the participants of this Youth Assembly was part of the project in Haiti and spoke about her experience. Sophonie Zidor, a 3rd year psychology student at the State University of Haiti in Port-au-Prince, was one of the youth volunteers from the Haitian Action Youth for the United Nations (AHNU) that Dr. Judy trained to lead the GKCP workshop she designed to help the children. Sophonie spoke about how fulfilling the experience was, to help the children heal. In a live demonstration of the intergenerational approach – the topic of the panel –Dr. Judy brought on to the stage Father Wismick and Russell Daisey, to join Sophonie. The message was that a team of all ages can – and must – work together to make a project highly successful. Many students crowded around Dr. Judy to talk to her about her projects and how they can get involved, appreciating how these projects are actively advancing the MDGs and expressing their desire to be active in changing the world.

“A Report from Reynolds”: How to Get That Fellowship

A Reynolds Fellow at NYU and Manager for Micro-Saving in Ashtoka’s Social Financial Services program, Marcelo Ber previously had a position with UNICEF Argentina. Working in the field of social entrepreneurship, Marcelo explained the process of applying for a Reynolds fellowship, which is available at Harvard University and NYU. He advised participants that instead of emailing CVs, network with people at the UN. Another suggestion was to focus on a specific project to achieve results.



Enobi from the NY Hallelujah Company performing a rendition of “Let It Be.”

Following Ber’s presentation, Enobi from the New York Hallelujah Company energized the audience with his rendition of the Beatles’ famous song, “Let It Be.”

YA+10 Closing Plenary

For the Closing Plenary, Tami Kesselman introduced Talia Leman, author and social entrepreneur as well as CEO and Founder of Random Kid. She is the recipient of a number of awards, including the National Jefferson Award, the International Youth Talent Award from the European Union and the “Champion of Intercultural Innovation” by the UN Alliance of Civilizations; she



Talia Leman giving her speech.

was also considered for the Nobel Prize for public service. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Leman had a plan to trick-or-treat for coins instead of selling candy for Halloween, and then to give that money to Hurricane Relief. She named this effort “TLC,” which meant “Trick or Treat for the Levy Catastrophe” or “Trick or Treat for Lose Change” or “Trick or Treat for Loose Currency or Cash.” As the CEO or “Chief Executive Optimist” for this effort, she set

an early goal of raising 1 million dollars. Her six-year-old brother, however, opposed what she was doing because he would rather trick-or-treat for pirate relief. Known as the “CON” or “Chief Operating Nemesis,” he posted a picture of himself, wearing a Darth Vader outfit, on his website. All this turned out amazingly, as The Today Show visited his website, saw his photo, and invited them on their TV Show. After that, a grocery printed out bags with her message in stores throughout states. Because of this, she raised 10 million dollars. Her success led to the birth of Random Kid, in which she leverages the power of kids worldwide to solve global problems. She explained that when you find what pulls you forward, you will happen upon greatness. “Luck does not share the same odds as getting hit by lightning,” she said, “Instead, luck is everywhere all the time, and we design our dreams. Anyone can start a revolution today, and freedom is the power to choose.” Leman found it ironic how we think we are free because we live in democracy, but we are not entirely free. She concluded, “We must choose what we do, what we say, who we are, how we interact, and what we have become. We are not a car, machine, or vehicle that does not choose. While there is a certain freedom in not having to choose, there is a greater freedom in choosing. Nothing divides us, but our choices. We must rebel against passivity; just because something *is*, does not mean that it has to be or should be. A trained brain can overcome physical instincts, increase your immune system, and increase your intelligence. In other words, belief can make you superhuman—we have the greatest power of all.”

– Submitted by Alicia Cho, Emily Lawson and Shuyao Kong, IAAP UN Interns

Part 7

The 50th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development: IAAP reports and advocacy about psychology’s role in poverty eradication

The 50th session of the UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD) was held in conference room 4 in the North Lawn Building (NLB) of UN headquarters in New York City from 1 to 10 February 2012. The priority theme this year was “Poverty Eradication.”

Delegations from over 40 countries met to discuss poverty eradication, which is Millennium Development Goal #1, focusing mainly on the emerging issues of youth poverty and unemployment. Delegates from Member States made statements during the general sessions and civil society advocates were allowed to ask questions, and also to present at side events. NGOs and interest groups accredited at the UN advocated about issues like financing social development, mainstreaming disability in development, and the plan of action on aging. IAAP members and interns attended a number of the general session panels and side events, and IAAP UN representatives Drs. Judy Kuriansky and Mary O’Neill Berry presented at a caucus organized by the Psychology NGOs accredited at the UN, on the topic of “Psychological Contributions to Empowerment for the Eradication of Poverty,” discussed in detail below. The IAAP team advocated with CSocD delegates for the inclusion of psychosocial issues and the contribution of psychology to the eradication of poverty, in the final resolution of the Commission. In addition, IAAP UN reps Drs. Kuriansky and Berry and SPSSI UN representative Dr. Corann Okorodudu had more extensive meetings with

delegates from several countries, including South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana, as well as discussions with delegates from countries including Argentina, Venezuela, Italy, Chile, France, Egypt and the European Union.

In preparation for these meetings, two reports of the Secretary General of the United Nations were helpful: “Poverty Eradication” and “Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,” which lay the groundwork for many of the Commission sessions. The reports review the multiple causes of poverty, including social inequality; inequality of the benefits of globalization and the distribution of wealth; lack of health facilities; lack of educational and training opportunities; poor infrastructure; inflation in food prices; actions of international financial institutions; counterproductive national monetary policies and lack of jobs.

The over-arching recommendation about the way to eradicate poverty is to reverse all of these causes by providing jobs, improving health, education, infrastructure, more equitable distribution of wealth and opportunities, social support by policies of international financial organizations and social support for all people in all countries.

An important component of eradication of poverty that seemed to gain acceptance by many speakers at the Commission was the recommendation by the International Labour Organization (ILO) for a social floor of protection that would provide for the basic needs of all citizens. The ILO maintained that government-led social protection is not only necessary for sustainable economic growth but is generally affordable in low income countries even if there is a short term need for assistance from international organizations. This social support will not only prevent people from falling into poverty and reduce the likelihood for social unrest but is also an investment in the productive capacity of people by providing them with better health, nutrition and education.

From a psychological perspective, the ILO’s position maintains that it is necessary to provide for the physical needs of people if they are to have any possibility of moving up the hierarchy of need-fulfillment as described by psychologist Abraham Maslow.

Day One-Opening Session

The CSocD 2012 session opened with remarks by Chairperson, His Excellency Mr. Jorge Valero of Venezuela, who reflected on the accomplishments of the Commission over the past 20 years, including “successfully centering the world’s attention on the importance of poverty eradication, cemented in its prominence within the Millennium Development Goals.” In light of the recent economic crisis, he urged the delegates in attendance to “identify the root causes of the challenges to poverty eradication that remain and work together to develop concrete solutions that favor coherent policy action and inclusive, transparent and accountable governance.” Referencing Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Declaration, which underlined the importance of poverty eradication and the just inclusion of social groups to sustainable development, he said that the goal of the commission is to produce action-oriented policies that “push development forward ensure that no one is left without a voice, without secure livelihood, or without opportunities for personal and community growth . . . and guide us forward in our continued work to promote inclusive and equitable development processes.”

The other panelists included H.E. Mr. Milos Koterec, Permanent Representative of Slovakia and President of the Economic and Social Council; Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary General of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development; Daniela Bas, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DESA); and Ms. Winifred Doherty, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepard and Chair of the

NGO Committee on Social Development. Each of the panelists read a statement addressing the theme of poverty eradication on behalf of their respective organizations.

Consistent themes throughout all of the statements included the need to address social and economic inequalities and to provide decent and productive employment, the youth unemployment crisis, and the need for people's empowerment and inclusion in the fight for poverty eradication.

Ms. Doherty, speaking on behalf of the NGO Committee on Social Development, reported that three billion people live in poverty and that 20 percent of the world's people hold 70 percent of its total income. She argued that "one of the root causes of our failure to eliminate poverty and achieve the MDGs is precisely the absence of a human rights framework in addressing poverty eradication." She emphasized the importance of the concept of the Social Protection Floor, a basic set of social rights derived from human right treaties, including access to essential services (such as health, education, housing, water and sanitation, and others, as defined nationally) and social transfers, in cash or in kind, to guarantee income security, food security, adequate nutrition and access to essential services. "Social protection measures are essential to reducing vulnerability to various shocks and to enhancing people's capacity to manage and overcome situations that affect their well-being," she said. Among the recommendations offered by the NGO Committee were that: All national budgets include an allocation of 4% of the GDP to a universal social protection floor for their citizens; all governments redirect 2% of their present military budget to their development budget; and all governments of developing countries with large rural populations implement social and economic policies and programmes that provide a small landholder, landless laborers, and women the opportunity to earn a livelihood and contribute to their communities. Consistent themes throughout all of the statements included the need to address social and economic inequalities, to provide decent and productive employment, to attend to the youth unemployment crisis, and to facilitate people's empowerment and inclusion in the fight for poverty eradication.

The statement of Ms. Daniela Bas on behalf of the Division for Social Policy and Development focused on "reducing economic and social inequalities" and the "importance of promoting the creation of productive employment and decent work." She also emphasized the necessity to address the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development.

Day 1 Session Two: Panel discussion on the priority theme of poverty eradication



UN CSocD 2012 panelists for the discussion of poverty eradication. From left to right: Armando Barrientos; Jesper Oestrup Zwisler; H.E. Mr. Jorge Valero; Secretary; Hoda Rashed; and Su Guoxia.

The discussion of poverty eradication continued with a panel moderated by Chairperson, H.E. Mr. Jorge Valero of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who began the session by noting that poverty reduction efforts are insufficient because microeconomic policies fail to address poverty and linkage to equality. Due to unequal benefits of globalization, there have been cuts in social services. Therefore, we need to ensure access to social services, which include healthcare, education, water, and sanitation.

Mr. Jesper Oestrup Zwisler, Permanent Secretary and Minister of Social Affairs in Denmark, agreed that society needs to respond more effectively to social problems during this economic

crisis. He recommended using all of our human resources to provide a basic social safety net for everyone. If no one addresses all social and economic problems, the unemployment rate for young people in the world will continue to increase. Moreover, young people will continue to lose contact with the labor market or the education system. Because of this, Denmark is a strong advocate for social protection, insisting that universal access to basic social protection is feasible and affordable, even in less developed countries.

Dr. Hoda Rashad, Professor at the Social Research Center, American University in Cairo, Egypt, reiterated the causes of poverty and the means of eradication described above. She noted that in Egypt in 2009, 20% of the population was below the poverty line and another 20% was just at the borderline and in grave danger of becoming impoverished. She reviewed the several efforts of Egypt to deal with the issue. While there are great ideas and plans for reducing poverty, implementation often falls short. To successfully implement plans, you need institutions with the capacity to bring plans into practice, practical tools for transferring wealth and a civil society willing to use the tools to bring about implementation. She pointed out that there were many projects but they lacked both evaluative tools and accountability. Unless poverty eradication is imbedded in a system of social justice, it is unlikely to succeed. She pointed out that economic growth in a country is not equivalent to progress in poverty eradication. She stressed that “poverty alleviation is a human right” and that the government can do better in alleviating poverty; governments must look beyond the financial constraints and also focus on social justice. Social fairness is not just about allocating resources, but also in good governance that is participatory, inclusive, and respectful of rights and dignity. She concluded, “Poverty . . . is also about a political sphere capable of gaining the trust and participation of its citizens through its enforcement of justice and human rights principles.”

Professor Armando Barrientos of Cambridge University, Research Director of the Brooks World Poverty Institute and Senior Researcher of Chronic Poverty Research Center, extended the argument for social protection, stating that 1.4 billion people are living in extreme poverty. Poverty can be eliminated through income transfer, providing services for the poor and integrating poverty reduction programs in community development. He believed that the focus of attention should be on protecting the household rather than the individual. The need is for long-term institutions rather than for short-term projects to deal with poverty. While international organizations may begin the process it is necessary for governments to take over poverty elimination projects and pay for it through taxes. Given the current economic situation we cannot expect long term international financing. He explained that there is a growth in direct assistance to household in poverty. Moreover, about 0.75 to 1 billion people are reached by cash transfers. In Brazil, the only social policies with greater reach than Bolsa Famfia are health, education and social insurance. He claimed that financing social protection is not just about resource globalization, but also about effectiveness and legitimacy. Poverty reduction requires growth, basic services and social protection.

Ms. Su Guoxia, Deputy Director of the Department of Policy and Regulations, State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development in China, spoke about China's efforts towards poverty alleviation. She said that economic development is the driving force for poverty eradication since economic development creates jobs. China is now putting its efforts toward poverty reduction in rural and farm areas of the country by promoting agriculture and rural development. They are doing this by rescinding agriculture taxes, building infrastructure, ecological development and regional development, for example, by opening up coastal regions and planning development for 18 million people in the next seven years. While she estimates that about 120 million people live in

poverty, China anticipates reaching the MDG goal of reducing poverty by 50% by the year 2015. The rural annual economic growth is 11% and illiteracy is down to 7% and 97% of children who attend school. While China has made achievements, China still faces pressure because the gap between different income groups is widening and China's capital GDP is still very low.

During the question and answer session, the Delegate of Mexico said that in order to fight poverty, we need a multidimensional approach. For years, Mexico has conducted social programs to combat poverty. She insisted that the transfer programs, which have been very successful, need to be part of a formal focus that involves decent employment. There should be a greater interagency coordination in the UN to strengthen social protection.

The Delegate of Botswana asked about cash transfers, specifically their sustainability, especially during this time of economic credit crunch. He also wondered how countries like Botswana can receive international assistance without strings attached. He asked, "What are the advantages of food transfers versus cash transfers?" His final question was how to ensure that the dependency syndrome does not build among the next generation.

In response to the question about whether we should do cash transfers or food transfers, Hoda Rashed said that there is no answer to this question; each country has their special circumstances and goes through a learning process. In terms of comparing results on poverty alleviation on an international scale, poverty is a moving target. The benchmark changes in the level of development.

Armando Barrientos agreed with the Delegate of Mexico that it is important to provide integrated approaches to poverty reduction and eradication. He mentioned that the social development law in Mexico is important to institute a commission against the struggle of poverty and vulnerability in the country. A number of interventions have proven successful. The development of social protection programs has created the necessity of this kind of institutionalization and legislation. The government has passed a social protection law that regulates the different functions in solidarity. In some countries in the region, for example in South Africa, and Botswana to some extent, the instrument in providing cash to families in poverty has been employed for a long time. Cash transfer is usually used for food purchases. In other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the idea of providing a cash transfer has not been a long tradition because the extremes of poverty are very high. The government has to be careful in appropriating beneficiaries. It is hard for governments to reach the entire population needing support directly. Also, there is political opposition because some countries can become very dependent on emergency and humanitarian assistance; so the challenge is how you depend on emergency assistance for regular support. It is important to ensure sustainability; thus depending solely on international assistance may not be a good strategy. It is important to move as fast as possible towards domestic funding for social protection.

The Representative of the International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation proposed that the governments at the international level invest the minimum of 4% GDP in the social protection initiative. A study by ILO shows that a minimum of 4% GDP can reach far in eradicating poverty. The Representative proposed implementation of an international financial tax and investing resources from it to development of a social protection floor initiative; a small budget from military spending invested in a social protection initiative will go very far.

IAAP UN representative Walter Reichman was one of the NGO and civil society members accepted to ask a question. He asked the panel, "What are the implications for the culture of a nation when there is extensive poverty, and what are the implications for the lives and well-being of those not

experiencing poverty when they live in a nation in which there is extensive poverty. There has to be important negative psychological and sociological implications for the nation. Perhaps collecting information on these implications will motivate a nation to institute a social floor and social protection advocated by the reports of the Secretary-General and members of this panel.”

Day Two

Commission for Social Development: 2nd general discussion



At UN CSocD 2012 during the 2nd general discussion, from left to right: Representative of the Division For Social Policy and Development, the Chair, and Secretary.

During this session, delegates presented their statements. The Chair served as moderator. Sitting at the head table were the Secretary, Rapporteur, and a Representative of the Division for Social Policy and Development. The following are some examples of statements from country delegates. For details about the session and the statements of delegates, see: <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx>. Delegates sat at long tables, their image projected on screens for visibility. Some statements were handed out.

The Delegate of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that “through a new model of development and social policies inspired by humanist principles, it is possible to reduce poverty and overcome inequality.” It is important to “universalize the systems of social security and protection that ensures . . . the possibility to live in dignity.”



Delegate of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reading her statement.

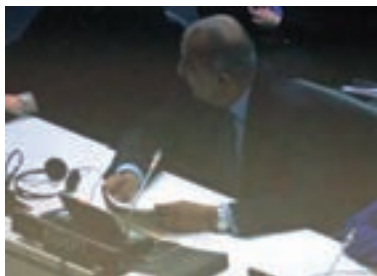
Mr. Tetsuya Kimura, Delegate of Japan, stressed that the gap between the rich and the poor widens in many countries, including in developed countries. Japan intends to “support human and social development in developing countries in areas including education, health and welfare, water and sanitation, and agriculture.” Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) prioritizes education. One example of Japan’s ODA is the “School for All” Project in West Africa which focuses on improving the education environment and quality for children.



Ms. Vusi Madonsela, Delegate of South Africa, stated that “poverty and unemployment are often accompanied by socio-economic phenomena such as hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy, low status of women, environmental degradation and risks, and

Mr. Tetsuya Kimura, Delegate of Japan, delivering his statement.

inadequate access to social and health services.” Poverty rises with the increasing international food and fuel costs. South Africa has made significant progress in poverty eradication. For instance, the government focused on the “implementation of a Comprehensive Social Protection Framework, which combines income support (through the social grants system) with a social wage package.” This package incorporated “clinic-based free primary health care for all; compulsory education for all those aged seven to thirteen; compulsory early childhood development programme in all communities; and subsidized housing, electricity, water, sanitation, refuse removal and transportation for those that qualify.” The government has invested in social policy to ensure positive economic outcomes. One example: the Department of Rural Development working with the Land Reform Youth Service Corps have “trained thousands of young people . . . from different wards in rural areas over a two year period, equipping them with essential artisan and trade skills required by the South African economy.”



H.E. Ambassador, Maged Abdelaziz, Delegate of Egypt, reading his statement.

H.E. Ambassador, Maged Abdelaziz, Delegate of Egypt, explained that the emotions of “anger, injustice, and frustration among citizens, particularly youth, due to poverty, unemployment, lack of equal opportunities in their societies, as well as corruption and social exclusion” contributed to the “uprising in the Arab region.” The Egyptian government focuses on implementing reforms that relate to the revolution’s demands. It focuses on “human rights and fundamental freedoms and elevating the standards of economic, social and political inclusion and participation.” The government will strengthen the social protection nets for the poor, including women and children.

This includes “school-based food programs, health insurance, microfinance, raising the minimum wages, as well as the continuation of subsidizing major commodities for the poor and marginalized, despite the high costs borne by government.”

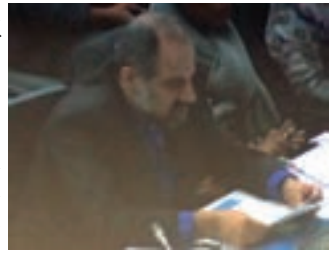


Ambassador Wang Min, Delegate of China, reading his statement.

Ambassador Wang Min, Delegate of China, said that the achievement of social development faces difficulties due to “slow global economic recovery, prolonged turmoil in certain regions and continuous natural disasters.” As a result, many developing countries remain besieged by problems of hunger, disease and poverty; therefore, “efforts should be made to create an international environment conducive to poverty eradication.” The government of China recommends that “poverty reduction should be included in the overall planning for national and social development.”

The Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that while economic growth is the basic requirement and prerequisite to addressing poverty, economic growth alone has not brought down the level of poverty or vulnerability in some parts of the world. Macro-economic policies need to be refocused on the stability of real output incomes and employment rather than exclusively monitoring the inflation and fiscal risk deficit. Essential family services such as access to basic health and primary education and safe water and sanitation are the basic social protections needed in policies addressing poverty. The expansion of social expenditure seems more necessary than ever. A significant shift in the trajectory of fossil fuel consumption had already been noted. However, the more important results of ours

have been the increased income in the poorest provinces and families throughout the country. Some recent achievements of the government in poverty eradication are: decreasing the ratio of population under \$1.25 per day from 4.6% in the year 1997 to less than 0.5% in 2008; the ‘eradication of poverty’ bill in the parliament in 2005; and the establishment of an insurance form for poor villagers. Each country has its own conditions and circumstances; however, the end result of economic growth in developed and developing countries alike should be the inclusion of everyone, particularly the poorest ones who are in the process of development.



The Delegate of Islamic Republic of Iran reading his statement.

H.E. Mr. Yusra Khan, Delegate of Indonesia, said that Indonesia recognizes the significance of “putting people at the center of development.” He reported that over 1 billion people are still living on less than \$1.25 a day. Meanwhile, the expansion of the international economy has been coupled with growing vertical and horizontal inequality. This makes those who are vulnerable and marginalized even worse. The benefits of economic growth are not shared equitably. He believes that “macro-economic policies focusing on people, instead of impressive economic statistics for public consumption, must be formulated and implemented. These policies must create more and better jobs and improve the productivity of leading economic sectors.” In 2011, the government created the Master Plan for the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia Economic Growth (MP3EI), which aims at increasing growth in major economic centers. The government focuses on human capital, food security, providing the poor with economic security, empowering family units, and creating social assistance and protection programmes to meet the health needs of mothers, children, the elderly and the disabled.

Blanca Lilia Garcia Lopez, Delegate of Mexico, said that since Rio+20 is a conference on environment and development, it should “have at the center of its sustainable development agenda the eradication of poverty.” In Mexico, the fight against poverty focuses on human rights. The Advisory Council on Social Development (CONVEVAL) uses “multidimensional poverty measurement schemes” to identify the population that needs the most attention and focus policy towards their needs. Poverty measurement tools should be designed according to those who are most affected, especially women and members of vulnerable groups such as migrants, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and seniors, groups which are often times ignored in surveys and census. It is not only important to be able to count on statistics she said, but “we need to assure that these groups participate in the elaboration of public policies.” Public policies need to focus on social protection, and provide services that consider the entire life cycle of an individual. Mexico has made advances to guarantee health; for example, they have reached universal health care coverage via “Seguro Popular.”

The Delegate of Senegal said that his country has implemented political measures seeking to strengthen the government to fight against poverty and to promote job security and social cohesion. Senegal developed a framework that is conducive to social policy by ratifying regional instruments that create room for dialogue and action for economic and social development. Senegal seeks to fight against poverty and support basic social services, to fight unemployment, to promote education and to eliminate all forms of discrimination by promoting equality, equity, and social justice. Likewise, vigorous measures have been taken to create jobs to fight against inequality, especially access to well-paid jobs, and to confront the plight of vulnerable groups. Senegal is implementing social policies that provide basic social services (e.g. access to education, healthcare, housing, and

physical and mental wellbeing). The rule of law and equal opportunity, safeguarding dignity and equitable redistribution growth of wealth, has become a reality, thanks to our diplomacy. The Ministry of Social Development is working to achieving long and short-term objectives. In the area of youth employment, Senegal has created a national foundation, major projects like the women's loan project, the women's entrepreneurial foundation, and a microfinance project for the rehabilitation of disabled persons. All of this includes the adoption of social framework law. These accomplishments "prove the resolve of my country's government to work towards social cohesion and integration." Senegal's economy has achieved economic growth exceeding 5% in 2004 and 2005, and even 6% GDP growth. Women, children, the elderly, and the disabled, have enabled Senegal to tackle causes of inequality and social discrimination and to achieve a fairer and more equitable society.



H.E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Delegate of Brazil, reading her statement.

H.E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Delegate of Brazil, reported that almost 40 million Brazilians have risen out of poverty. She said, "This has been the result of consistent public policies that combine sustained economic growth with social inclusion." Brazil utilized the "Bolsa Familia," a cash transfer program that provides a monthly stipend to poor families who commit to keeping their children in school and ensure that they undergo regular health checks. While helping reduce current poverty, the program helps to break the cycle of inter-generational transmission of poverty. This program has the greatest impact on the lives of millions of low-income Brazilians. Another program is the Benefits for the Elderly and Disabled in Poverty, which grants a monthly minimum wage to persons with disabilities and older persons in disadvantaged families.



H.E. Ambassador Shin Dong-Ik, Delegate of Republic of Korea, making his statement.

H.E. Ambassador Shin Dong-Ik, Delegate of Republic of Korea, explained that the Korean Government is pursuing the Social Investment Policy in hopes to decrease economic and social inequalities and to facilitate social integration. Established in 2009, the Presidential Committee of Social Cohesion was created to achieve "social integration and protect the socially vulnerable and marginalized groups. It also seeks to address the tension between different groups of society."

– Submitted by Alicia Cho, IAAP UN intern

Part 8
Statement of the Psychology NGOs
accredited at the United Nations, prepared for
the 50th session of the Commission for
Social Development and used for advocacy:

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Recommendations submitted by: Psychology NGOs accredited at ECOSOC at the United Nations [1]

Caucus held 2 February 2012, Conference Room D, NLB, UN NY headquarters

The Secretary-General's Report on Poverty Eradication (E/CN.5/2012/3) acknowledges that poverty is multidimensional. However, Governments, UN agencies, and the international community generally focus on economic policies and indicators in their programmatic efforts to eradicate poverty. While we do not deny the importance of economic policies and measures, the purpose of this statement is to advocate for governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to **address psychosocial factors** as significant, complementary dimensions associated with poverty and its alleviation. **We offer recommendations concerning the importance of psychosocial empowerment, mental health, and psychosocial well-being to achieve sustainable poverty reduction.**

I. PSYCHOSOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Provide Access to Productive Employment and Decent Work

Research in psychology indicates that being engaged in decent work in itself promotes psychosocial empowerment by **developing a sense of ownership, optimism, and efficacy/confidence in one's ability to be effective.** Empowering people to be productive and resourceful members of their families, communities and society reduces poverty and marginalization. Therefore, we urge governments to not only **create meaningful jobs but to increase and strengthen opportunities for training about entrepreneurship and income generating activities, life skills development, and access to primary, secondary and higher education** as important pathways to decent work and the alleviation of poverty. **Culturally relevant psychological assessments** should be used to help find the most effective fit between individual strengths and available job, vocational, or career opportunities.

Promote Social Equality, Human Rights, and Social Justice for All

Poverty conditions including social and economic disparities affecting individuals, groups and communities, are violations of their human rights to survival, protection, development, and social participation.

We urge governments to put human rights at the center of their framework for national development and to review and replace those laws, policies, programmes and practices at all levels that discriminate against individuals on the basis of their gender, age, race, ethnicity, color, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, rural/urban/suburban residence and other categories of social identity. Psychological and social science research demonstrates that social inequalities

prevent people from developing their capacities and contributing as productive members of society. Apart from functioning as factors that stunt personal and group development, **social inequalities, stereotypes, and discrimination are barriers to social cohesion within a society and are frequent sources of intergroup conflict and social instability, which in turn cause poverty to persist.**

We recommend greater emphasis on restorative justice (including education and mental health care) and less emphasis on justice by punishment or abuse in criminal justice systems. Individuals living in poverty are more likely to be targets of imprisonment where they do not get the skill training they need to return to society and successfully meet their basic needs; thus continuing in poverty.

We urge governments to provide ongoing human rights learning for all members of society, especially individuals and groups living in poverty, to **foster their vitality, resilience and activism to alleviate poverty conditions as social injustices and to advocate for positive social and economic changes in their own lives and the lives of others.**

Promote Engagement in Decision-Making and Capacity-Building Networks

Engage individuals and groups living in poverty as active partners in planning and operating programs at all decision-making levels. Without having ownership and representation in social and economic planning, the poor may come to view empowerment interventions as too externally controlling.

We urge governments to **encourage and provide opportunities for expanding and strengthening capacity-building community networks through which information about entrepreneurial and social opportunities can be shared.** Psychological research has demonstrated that **group cohesion can be developed by a diverse group coming together on an equal basis and a shared purpose, and working interdependently to achieve a larger, common goal.**

II. MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

The psychological literature increasingly confirms that **poor mental health is both a cause and a consequence of poverty**, which often includes conditions of isolation, lack of education and economic opportunities and resources, inadequate access to health and mental health care and other social services, especially in rural areas. These multiple stressors interact to cause anxiety and depression which have negative impacts on the ability of individuals to cope, resulting in the persistence of poverty.

Poverty may result from environmental migration due to climate change and natural disasters, which are associated with mental health issues for the affected populations such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, child abuse and other forms of interpersonal violence.

Implement the Social Protection Initiative

We urge governments and the international community to implement the Social Protection Floor Initiative, including **access to mental health care within primary health care, to take care of basic human needs of all vulnerable groups.**

Poverty has intergenerational effects within families and communities. Therefore, **governments should take a lifespan, inclusive rights-based approach to implementing the Social Protection Floor for all age groups.**

Promote Access to Mental Health Care

Provide accessible multidisciplinary service centers and mobile vans including access to mental health care, especially in rural areas, to provide one-stop services. In rural areas, include literacy and continuing education and entrepreneurial training in these centers.

Provide trained psychologists and mental health counselors, well versed in the above areas and in culturally-specific methodology and techniques, to train and work with local community peer coaches, especially in rural areas, to recognize mental health problems and to provide services and referrals in an informed, nondiscriminatory manner.

Ensure that all services and interventions are implemented according to ethical principles and with respect for the human rights and dignity of all individuals.

III. PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Another psychological concept important to the achievement of poverty eradication is the concept of psychosocial well-being. Well-being is mentioned three times in the Secretary-General's Report on Poverty Eradication, once specifically as "mental well-being." Measures of well-being were included in the 2010 UN Human Development Report, and should be expanded to include psychosocial dimensions. The concept of well-being is achieving considerable empirical support, particularly in the emerging field of Positive Psychology, as consisting of factors related to positive human development. We propose that an effective **Social Protection Floor would provide for basic needs of vulnerable sectors of society, which would then be enabled and empowered to strive for psychological and psychosocial well-being.**

On the WHO website as of October 2011, mental health is defined as "a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community."

The government of Bhutan is promoting the concept of well-being in its initiative towards a holistic approach to development and evident in its "Gross National Happiness" (GNH) Index (<http://www.un.int/wcm/content/site/bhutan/pid/4106>); France's President Nicolas Sarkozy and other governments have called for replacing the GDP as the sole measure of national wealth with one that quantifies well-being alongside economic strength.

Therefore, we urge governments to include the term "psychosocial well-being" and/or "mental well-being" in the Final Resolution of the 2012 UN Commission for Social Development. We also recommend that governments support Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Index, or a related index, as well as include indexes of psychosocial well-being in the 2010 UNDP Human Development Report, and support Bhutan and France's initiative supporting well-being as a measurement of development.

IV. PROGRAM EVALUATION

Strategies and programs that are implemented need to be evaluated to ensure their effectiveness and to determine the degree to which the policies they are intended to address have had the desired effects in eradicating poverty.

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[1] Psychology NGOs accredited at ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council) at the United Nations include: the American Psychological Association, the Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention, the International Association of Applied Psychology, the International Council of Psychologists, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, the International Union of Psychological Science, the Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

Part 9

Caucus and Advocacy of the Psychology NGOs Accredited at the United Nations on “Psychological Contributions to Empowerment for the Eradication of Poverty”



The panelists from the Psychology NGOs Accredited at the UN (left to right): Fahad Rahman, Christina Kirkman, Emily Dow, Dr. Corann Okorodudu, Dr. Judy Kuriansky, Dr. Mary O’Neill Berry and Dr. Peter Walker.

The Psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations were honored that their proposal to hold a caucus at the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) was accepted. Further, this caucus was scheduled for a room in the main North Lawn Building of the UN where the delegates were meeting. As active UN NGO representatives as well as being well-versed in the subject matter, IAAP UN reps were on the panel. The IAAP UN team field projects in Haiti and Africa provided important contributions to the discussion.

The panel focused on the theme of “Psychological Contributions to Empowerment for the Eradication of Poverty.” The purpose of the caucus was to create an advocacy document including recommendations regarding the contributions of psychological research and best practice to the eradication of poverty, to present to member state delegates for inclusion into the final draft resolution of the Commission. Corann Okorodudu, Psychology Professor at Rowan University, IAAP member and UN NGO representative for the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), moderated the panel of speakers which included IAAP’s UN representatives Dr. Judy Kuriansky and Dr. Mary O’Neill Berry; Dr. Peter Walker, UN representative for the International Council of Psychologists; and Christina Kirkman, Emily Dow and Fahad Rahman, UN interns for the American Psychological Association (APA).

In her opening statement, Dr. Okorodudu gave an overview of the importance of psychology in poverty, as in all global issues. This is the mission of the Psychology NGOs at the UN. While the UN Secretary General's report identified poverty as a multi-dimensional problem, she said that "When the UN and its agencies try to come up with strategies to alleviate poverty, they frequently leave psychology and mental health out all together." The goal is to change that.

Dr. Mary O'Neill Berry addressed access to decent and productive employment as a source of psychological empowerment. She described the example of the IAAP UN team's project of the Girls Empowerment Programme in Lesotho, Africa. The programme, and its camp, represents "a model which demonstrates where psychology can contribute to poverty reduction." The activities of the camp combine the development of life skills such as self-esteem, confidence and assertiveness, with training about income-generating activities and entrepreneurship. The camp methodology included administration of an extensive evaluation protocol, which revealed highly successful outcome on targeted dimensions within a short period of time. Such evaluations are essential for efficient program design and to insure effectiveness and adequate funding for sustainability. In order to break the cycle of poverty and set the course for sustainable livelihood, Dr. Berry suggested including a recommendation in the final draft resolution for programs to be developed widely that address both psychological empowerment and income generating activities. She advocates that such programs be instituted in the school curricula to be sustainable.

Fahad Rahman emphasized the necessity to promote social inclusion by reducing inequalities especially given the UN Secretary General's report which references relative or horizontal poverty where there are inequalities in job opportunities for different groups. He recommended the intergroup contact theory as an effective method used in the U.S. and South Africa to "reduce prejudice by coming together on equal status to work toward a common goal."

The inverse relationship between well-being and poverty is evident. As Dr. Okorodudu remarked, "poverty results in mental health problems and mental health problems exacerbate poverty."

Dr. Judy Kuriansky furthered the discussion by focusing on the psychological topic of well-being as it relates to poverty alleviation. She elucidated efforts being made at the UN and by governments, by NGO projects and in academic settings, concerning this important concept. She highlighted the importance of well-being recognized by the Royal Government of Bhutan, reflected in their Gross National Happiness Index, which provides indicators to measure the quality of life in more holistic terms rather than just economic terms. The Bhutan government sponsored UN General Assembly Resolution 65/309 in July 2011, co-sponsored by 68 countries and adopted unanimously, entitled "Happiness: Towards a holistic approach to development." The resolution invited Member States "to pursue public policy steps that would better capture the importance of pursuing happiness and well-being in development" and welcomed Bhutan's offer to hold a panel discussion on the theme during the Assembly's upcoming sixty-sixth session.

Additionally, France President Sarkozy has worked with famous economists to elaborate on measures of development beyond finances. IAAP had recognized the importance of this issue years ago, when a team of experts was convened by IAAP Past President Michael Frese. Dr. Kuriansky pointed out that the UN Human Development Report in 2010 included several dimensions of well-being, but that these do not appear in the 2011 report. The UN Secretary General's report on poverty used the term well-being several times, but it was not elaborated. She emphasized that more advocacy needs to be done on this issue, and made recommendations to further elaborate such indexes to include psychological aspects of well-being and positive mental health. Her more detailed report on well-being is in another article in this Bulletin.

Dr. Peter Walker focused on the topic of environmental refugees and climate change as a threat to sustained economic growth, which was mentioned by the Secretary General in Article 62. When natural environments are negatively affected, this can have psychological impacts including PTSD, major depression and drug and alcohol abuse, all of which can contribute to the cycle of poverty.

About 30 attendees engaged with the panel in a fruitful conversation about the relevance and importance of the role psychology plays in this global concern. It was clear from the discussion that mental health and poverty eradication were issues facing the groups for which they were advocating. Katie Hamm, representing Sisters of Charity, works with young women who have been trafficked, and suggested that poverty makes these young women physically and mentally vulnerable to trafficking. Janice Bloch, an IAAP professional affiliate, suggested providing handouts labeled “for your consideration,” highlighting the caucus’ final recommendations, to the mission delegates at the conference.



IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky talking to the CSocD delegate from the European Union.

Immediately following the caucus, IAAP UN rep Kuriansky and IAAP intern Jeannette Raymond did in-person advocating with the CSocD delegates. The effort was highly successful in making contacts with various country delegations, informing them about the statement developed by the Psychology NGOs accredited at the UN (including South Africa, Nigeria, and Ghana. Italy, Chile, France, Egypt and Mexico) and encouraging them to include references to the importance of psychological issues in the eradication of poverty in the final draft resolution. Some of these delegates had already used words like “empowerment” “social well being” and “mental health” in their delivered statements. In other successful follow-ups, Drs. Kuriansky, Okorodudu and O’Neill Berry had in-depth meetings with mission delegates from several countries.



IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky with CSocD Venezuela delegate.



Pictured from left to right: CSocD delegates from Nigeria M.B. Daodu and Ms. Elizabeth Emuren; IAAP UN rep Dr. Judy Kuriansky; APA UN intern Christine Kirkman; and IAAP UN intern Emily Lawson.

The delegates of Nigeria agreed that girls need confidence to rise from poverty and that we must pay attention to psychological empowerment. They acknowledged that the final CSocD statement should include language about psychological development. Ms. M.B. Daodu, Director of Rehabilitation from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, said that youth need not just skills, but self-confidence, to know “Don’t let anybody trample on you.” Programs in disabilities teach them how to build a boat but not how to feel better. Ms. Elizabeth

Emuren, Permanent Secretary and Director for Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Nigeria added that, “We can discuss with the commission . . . believing in yourself is a key to success (and crucial) in the villages” so it can be passed on to their families and communities. This will decrease trafficking and transactional sex . . . The only way girls won’t be exploited and vulnerable to trafficking, is if they feel good about themselves.” It was impressive to hear these delegates speaking in terms that were very psychological. Ms. Emuren said, “You have to have confidence and to be mentally alert so you don’t give up and you keep on living” and “Mental alertness is what makes you rise up even when you are down” and “The psychological effect has a great deal to do with poverty.”

Given the statement by the South African government delegate which seemed synchronistic with the mission of the Psychology NGOs, IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky discussed the issues with South Africa government delegate Valerie Matlou, Chief Director of Economic and Social Affairs who set up a meeting with her colleague, Sadi Luka, Chief Director of the South African Department of Social Development. IAAP member and SPSSI UN rep Corann Okorodudu was also present. Details of these meetings are in another article in this Bulletin.

The reps from the Psychology NGOs pointed out that economic policies need to be complemented with psychological and psychosocial policies, that intergenerational life span should be inclusive, and that all people, including children, should learn their rights as a basis for the development and the importance of including psychological empowerment in any consideration of social development.

The discussion with the delegates from South Africa revealed their great interest in IAAP’s Girls Empowerment Programme and led to plans for further meetings and collaboration about launching similar program in South Africa. This is presented in another article in this Bulletin.

– Submitted by Alicia Cho and Emily Lawson, IAAP UN Interns, and Walter Reichman, Ph.D., UN IAAP Representative

Part 10

Well-Being: An Important Issue at the United Nations and for the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP)

The field of positive psychology, and specifically the concept of well-being, is gaining importance in psychology and beyond. Positive psychology emphasizes positive human functioning and a scientific understanding and effective interventions to build thriving individuals, families and communities. Well-being is related to other concepts in positive psychology such as hardiness, resilience and quality of life. The concept provides a broad view of quality of life and factors besides income, education and longevity. Subjective well-being refers to various positive and negative evaluations that people make of their lives, events they experience, and life circumstances, including cognitive assessments (e.g. life satisfaction, work satisfaction) and emotional reactions to life events (e.g. joy, depression, feeling happy, healthy or prosperous). These can be observed in self-reports and in behaviour.

The prominence of this new field for professionals is evident in the proliferation of conferences on the topic, the popularity of academic courses and increases in research, evident in the publication of the new official journal of the International Association of Applied Psychology, "Applied Psychology: Health and Well-being." Outstanding articles present the latest data and best practices in the application of psychology to the promotion of well-being and optimal functioning.

Well-being is considered an important social indicator, adding value to purely economic indicators, especially in light of the fact that policy makers need to understand the well-being of the population since that is their goal. Economists have also recently discovered the value and the importance of the concept of well-being.

Recognizing the value of bringing the concept of well-being to the international stage, and to the attention of policy makers, IAAP Past President Michael Frese, an expert on entrepreneurship and leadership, convened a committee of high level psychologists and economists, and advocated at the United Nations for the inclusion of concepts of well-being in the UN Human Development Report published yearly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The working group included eminent psychologist Ed Diener from the Gallup organization and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who has published widely on the subject. His articles include "Will Money Increase Subjective Well-Being?"; "Wealth and Happiness across the World: Material Prosperity Predicts Life Evaluation, Whereas Psychosocial Prosperity Predicts Positive Feeling" and "Subjective Well-Being: Three Decades of Progress" published in the Psychological Bulletin. Also on the committee were Andrew Clark, an economist from England working in France; Nobel Prize laureate economist Daniel Kahneman (the only psychologist to get this honour); David Chan, an internationally-known methodologist from Singapore; and Eunkook Mark Suh, a psychologist from South Korea who has done important international work on well-being across nations. The committee was instituted by several internationally relevant psychology associations and NGOs at the UN, including the International Union of Psychological Science, the International Association of Applied Psychology, the American Psychological Association, the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology and others, as a result of a discussion of the presidents of these associations with Shashi Tharoor, then UN Under Secretary General for Public Information, who was secured by IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky to deliver the opening address at the International Congress of Applied Psychology in Athens in 2006. In his remarks, he mentioned the importance of well-being. IAAP Past President Frese and IAAP UN reps Judy Kuriansky, Walter Reichman and Mary O'Neill Berry did follow-up at the UN on behalf of the committee.



The committee determined that measures of well-being add value to information from economic indicators. For example, while economic output rose steeply in many countries over past decades, there has not always been a concomitant rise in well-being and may even be a substantial increase in depression and distrust. As societies grow in wealth, issues of well-being may be of particular importance, given that they are not well represented by economic indicators alone. Additionally, well-being may point to how well social relationships and work are organized in these societies. The committee referred to Diener (2005, Guidelines for National Indicators of Subjective Well-being and Ill-being. SINET, November 2005, pp. 4-6): "There is increasing interest in using

indicators of subjective well-being and ill-being to inform policy debates, and there are now national and international surveys of subjective well-being and ill-being in the European Union, Australia, and elsewhere. Furthermore, subjective indicators of well-being are already a significant component of monitoring important domains such as health-related quality of life.” Research has substantiated the added value of indicators of subjective well-being beyond economic and social indicators, including those published by Diener, Seligman, Kahneman and others. Indicators of subjective well-being and ill-being can be used for to evaluate policies in many areas, including health care, public health, social services, parks and recreation, work life, transportation, families, and the environment.

Advocacy about Well-being by the Psychology NGOs accredited at the UN

At the recent caucus at the United Nations Commission for Social Development, psychologists from Psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations (including IAAP and other psychology organizations) presented a statement about the importance of including psychosocial issues in efforts to eradicate poverty throughout the world. Details of this statement and advocacy are presented in other articles in this Bulletin. Panelists discussed various aspects of this issue and offered recommendations.

IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky presented about the importance of well-being in the achievement of poverty eradication (#1 of the UN Millennium Development Goals). She outlined connections between psychological well-being and economic and social development. An index of well-being would be added value to the index of economic development, to assess the development of nations. While psychosocial well-being can be directly related to poverty, this relationship can be inverse, in that peoples who are disadvantaged economically may still report being “happy,” and those who are economically advantaged are not necessarily emotionally fulfilled.



The side event on psychological contributions to poverty eradication at the Commission for Social Development at the United Nations.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), “emotional health can lead to success in work, relationships and health. In the past, researchers believed that success made people happy. Newer research reveals that it’s the other way around. Happy people are more likely to work toward goals, find the resources they need and attract others with their energy and optimism — key building blocks of success.”

Well-being at the UN

Well-being is increasingly referred to in the United Nations community; however this needs to be greatly expanded and elaborated.

The 2010 Human Development Report from UNDP includes indexes of “Civic and community well-being.” These include measures of Crime and Safety (homicide and robbery rates, number of assault victims and perception of safety) and percentage of satisfaction with measures of well-being in various areas (affordable housing, community, education system, and quality of healthcare, air and water). Importantly, indexes are also included of “Perceptions of individual well-being and happiness,” along eleven dimensions. Sourced from the 2010 Gallup World Poll, these include: measurement of satisfaction with personal dimensions (job, personal health and standard of living); saying “yes” to elements of happiness (purposeful life, treated with respect, and social support network); a negative experience index (on a scale of 0 to 100); and overall life satisfaction (on a scale of 0 to 10). The ten countries ranking highest on the scale are Norway, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Ireland, Lichtenstein, Netherlands, Canada, Sweden and Germany. Countries ranking low on the scale include Zimbabwe, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Burundi, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Liberia, Burkino Faso, and Mali. However, the 2011 Human Development Report includes only an overall index of satisfaction.

The UN Secretary General mentions “well-being” three times in his Report on Poverty Eradication (E/CN.5/2012/3). However, the word is used in passing, and not elaborated. Once, on p.7, he uses the phrase “mental well-being”; specifically, on p.7, para 24, he says “Not only do the idle young suffer deterioration in their skills set and motivation, and physical and mental well-being, but the loss of human and productive potential undermines social cohesion and stability.” On p.12, in para 50, he says, “Social protection measures shield individuals and families from economic shocks as well as social and economic changes, and enhance their capacity to manage and overcome situations that affect their well-being.” On p.13, para 54, he says, “The right to social security calls for a progressive move towards universal social protection to ensure the basic well-being of all individuals, regardless of where they work or live, or the state of the economy.”



On the website of WHO, as of October 2011, mental health is defined as “a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.” The positive dimension of mental health is stressed in WHO’s definition of health contained in its constitution: “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” (http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/mental_health/en/index.html).

The United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics (UNU-WIDER) recognized the importance of measuring well-being. In efforts to provide insights for the better design, application

and interpretation of measures of achieved well-being, they conducted research focused on measures used in inter-country well-being assessments, such as the well-known Human Development Index. In September 2007, they presented the results of their study, "Measuring Human Well-being: Key Findings and Policy Lessons," at UN Headquarters. They noted, "As we all know, achieving and sustaining higher levels of human well-being are challenges for individual citizens, governments, and international organizations world-wide. Measures of human well-being levels are an integral part of this process, used increasingly to monitor and evaluate conditions within and among countries. Not only has the number of measures of human well-being grown appreciably in recent years, but demands that they more fully capture progress in the various dimensions of human well-being have also increased. They are also more extensively used to justify development aid and measure progress towards internationally agreed targets such as those adopted under the Millennium Development Goals." The speakers, contributors to the study, included Mark McGillivray, Deputy Director of UNU-WIDER and Honorary Professor of Development Economics in the Department of Economics at the University of Glasgow and Director of the WIDER research project Social Development Indicators (Measuring Human Well-being); Farhad Noorbakhsh, University of Glasgow Professor of Development Economics and 2007 Fellow of the Human Development and Capability Association in recognition of his work on measuring human development. The discussant was James Foster, Professor of Economics at Vanderbilt University, Senior Fellow of the Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies and an internationally acclaimed expert in evaluating inequality and poverty and understanding their economic and social consequences. The 1984 Foster-Greer-Thorbecke poverty measure has been adopted almost universally by international organizations and researchers doing empirical work on poverty.

The Initiative of the Royal Government of Bhutan

The Royal Government of Bhutan is a pioneer in putting well-being and happiness on the global agenda. Their initiative about "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development" is anchored in their "Gross National Happiness" (GNH) Index (<http://www.un.int/wcm/content/site/bhutan/pid/4106>). The index postulates that "beneficial development of human society takes place when material and spiritual development occur side by side to complement and reinforce one another." This term was coined in 1972 by Bhutan's then-King. Canadian health epidemiologist Michael Pennock had a major role in designing the instrument, which is transcultural in that "while it reflects Buddhist origins, it is solidly based on the empirical research literature of happiness, positive psychology and well-being." Their website quotes extensive research about the concept, its development, value and critics. A conference on the topic was held in 2004 and a handbook was published. Other GNH conferences were held in Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands and Thailand. On 19 July 2011, 68 countries joined Bhutan in co-sponsoring a resolution titled "Happiness: Towards a holistic approach to development," initiated by Bhutan and adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly. Resolution 65/309 invited Member States "to pursue public policy steps that would better capture the importance of pursuing happiness and well-being in development" and welcomed Bhutan's offer to hold a panel discussion on the theme during the Assembly's sixty-sixth session.



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Gross National Happiness Commission

As follow-up to this resolution, on 2 April 2012, the Bhutan government convened an historic gathering, a High-Level Meeting on “*Happiness and Wellbeing: Defining A New Economic Paradigm*” held at United Nations headquarters in New York. Opening addresses were delivered by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and by H.E. Mr. Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly and H.E. Milos Koterec, President of the Economic and Social Council. The keynote was given by H.E. Ms. Laura Chinchilla, Honorable President of the Republic of Costa Rica, a country recognized for its achievements in sustainable development. Eminent expert speakers represented the two aspects of the initiative – economic and psychological. They included economists Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz from Columbia University and John Helliwell from the University of British Columbia; Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University Jeffrey Sachs; and noted psychologist Martin Seligman, founder of Positive Psychology. The President of the Centre for Bhutan Studies, Dasho Karma Ura, and the Secretary of the Bhutan Royal Government Gross National Happiness Commission Dasho Karma Tshiteem, elaborated about well-being and happiness. Widespread governmental support was evident in the representatives from many countries who made remarks, including a member of Parliament from Finland; the Minister of Environmental Protection from Israel; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs from Japan; the High Commissioner for Planning from the Kingdom of Morocco; the Minister of State for Environment and Forests from India; the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs from Thailand; and Lord Gus O’Donnell, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who spoke on the UK’s new well-being policy and measures.

IAAP UN representatives Judy Kuriansky and Mary O’Neill Berry and IAAP professional affiliate Janice Bloch participated, by formal invitation of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bhutan. In two subsequent days, working groups outlined next steps towards a development paradigm integrating economic, social and environmental objectives beyond the limiting current GDP model, to make policy recommendations for governments and to strategize communication channels of a new economy to reach a wide audience. Details of this important and ground-breaking initiative will be reported in a future IAAP Bulletin.

Efforts by the President of France

The activities related to Bhutan’s GNH led President Nicolas Sarkozy of France to commission a study of social progress and economic performance including various GNH measures that led to calling on politicians to replace the GDP as a measure of national wealth with one that quantifies well-being alongside economic strength. For this analysis leading to new ways of measuring social progress, President Sarkozy commissioned French economist Jean Pail Fitoussi and two Nobel Prize winning economists, United States economist Joseph Stiglitz, winner of the 2001 Nobel economics prize, and Amartya Sen of India, who won the 1998 Nobel prize for work on developing countries and helped develop the UN Development Index (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1213361/Sarkozy-includes-happiness-Frances-measure-economic-progress.html#ixzz1lI0UVPSd>). Their report recommends shifting the emphasis from gross domestic product, which measures economic production, to well-being and sustainability, including household income, consumption and wealth rather than production in the economy as a whole, and tracking non-market activities such as house cleaning, prominence on the distribution of income and wealth, and access to education and health. Speaking at the launch of a report he commissioned from Stiglitz, Sarkozy said France would pioneer the new technique and urge other countries to follow suit. Stiglitz has said that “GDP has increasingly become used as a measure of societal well-being, and changes in the structure of the economy and our society have made it an increasingly

poor one . . . It is time for our statistics system to put more emphasis on measuring the well-being of the population than on economic production.” Sarkozy said that the focus on GDP as the main measure of prosperity helped trigger the financial crisis and ordered France’s statistics agency to integrate the findings of Stiglitz’s study into future economic analysis.

Other global support for well-being:

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is supportive of the concept of well-being. Their mission is “to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world” including “to ensure that people of all ages can develop the skills to work productively and satisfyingly in the jobs of tomorrow.” Mainly funded by the U.S. and Japan, the organization has 34 member countries, spanning the globe from North and South America to Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, including “advanced countries, emerging countries like Mexico, Chile and Turkey . . . emerging giants like China, India and Brazil, and developing economies in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Recommendations:

Some experts believe a measure of well-being is crucial to development and policy decisions, while critics insist on more research and refinement. Indeed, national economic measures are methodologically sophisticated and have strong conceptual underpinnings anchored over 50 years of application and government support; yet, well-being indicators offer added value to economic measures, and thus would be beneficial to private and public decision-making, including to not only governments but business and civil society groups.

Recommendations regarding well-being in the statement drafted by the psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations that was submitted to the 2012 United Nations Commission for Social Development urged governments to include the term “psychosocial well-being” and/or “mental well-being” in the Final Resolution of the Commission. It was recommended that governments and civil society groups support well-being as a measurement of development as outlined in the groundbreaking initiative of the Royal Government of Bhutan in their Index of Gross National Happiness and their resolution sponsored at the UN General Assembly on defining a new holistic approach to development, which was further proposed by the President of France. It was further recommended that measurement of *psychosocial* well-being be consistently included in the indexes of the UNDP Human Development Report, given its added value in measuring country development. Similar recommendations were included in the statement by the psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations on “Psychological Contributions to the Eradication of Poverty among Rural Women and Girls” submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which convened 26 February to 5 March at United Nations headquarters in New York, for the Commission’s Agreed Conclusions on “The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.”

– Submitted by IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky

Part 11

Advancing Empowerment and Poverty Eradication in Africa through the Camp Model: Discussions at the UN Commission for Social Development

Given that discussions at the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) focused on poverty eradication, especially for youth, the International Association of Applied Psychology UN team's field project in Africa, the Girls Empowerment Programme (GEP), was of particular interest to African delegates. This program, described in a previous IAAP Bulletin in more detail, essentially comprises training in life skills and entrepreneurship for young village girls in Africa. See <http://www.new.iaapsy.org/uploads/newsletters/April2011.pdf>. Through an extensive outcome evaluation, which is rarely done in such circumstances and thus is a major contribution to the field, the camp was shown to be successful in improving the participants' self-esteem and furthering their awareness and ideas about income-generating activities; thus providing promise to break the cycle of poverty and HIV/AIDS infection.

IAAP UN reps Judy Kuriansky and Mary O'Neill Berry had several meetings at CSocD to discuss these issues. On 6 February, they met with the representative of the African Union Commission, Johan L. Strijdom, Ph.D., who is the Head of the Division of Social Welfare, Vulnerable Groups, Drug Control and Crime Prevention in the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission, located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Besides being an African Union Advisor, he is also a Clinical Social Worker with extensive experience and interest in drug and alcohol abuse treatment. This background makes him very interested in the GEP. Phil Lilienthal, founder of Global Camps Africa, an NPO that was a partner in the GEP, travelled from Washington to the UN in NYC to be present at the meetings.



Pictured from left to right: IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky, Johan L. Strijdom of the Africa Union Commission, Global Camps Africa's Phil Lilienthal, IAAP UN rep Mary O'Neill Berry.

Dr. Strijdom mentioned that he is very interested in an African Index of Well-being – which would be different from a more general index for other countries, since issues in Africa are specific. He would like to develop such an Index.

In addition, he is very interested in the GEP camp, and the possibility of its implementation throughout African nations. He thinks other African countries will welcome the model. Since the idea overlaps several departments in his office, including Social Affairs, Employment, and Human Resources/Science & Technology (which includes Education), he would like to convene a meeting of these departments in the African Union headquarters in Ethiopia to introduce the idea, so the various representatives can propose the project to their respective Ministries. The concept can be introduced at a meeting in April in Addis Ababa with the Ministers of the key Departments.

Another valuable possibility for collaboration was made when IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky connected with South African CSocD delegate Valerie Matlou, Chief Director of Economic and Social Affairs for the government of South Africa. Ms. Matlou set up a meeting with her colleague, Sadi Luka, chief director of the South African Department of Social Development. Given their interest in camps for youth for social development, and in partnering with an NGO to assure adequate human capacity and expertise in skills-training for youth, another meeting took place 6 February 2012, focusing on this issue, with IAAP rep Mary O'Neill Berry and the founder of Global Camps Africa (GCA), Phil Lilienthal, attending.

The IAAP team described the history of our partnership with GCA and the Office of the First Lady and various Ministries in Lesotho, Africa, for the Girls Empowerment Programme, and the model and success of that project. GCA director Lilienthal detailed his extensive experience running camps in America and throughout Africa, concentrating on South Africa, where GCA is headquartered. Camps are residential and also in day format; after the camp is over, Saturday programs (Kids' Clubs) take place for 6 months to a year, to reinforce and enhance the messages delivered at the Camps. Training the counselors before the Camp is an essential element, which has to be figured into the costs.



IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky speaking with South African CSocD delegate Valerie Matlou.

The South African delegates described their current context and needs, and how the collaboration can be fruitful.



An initial meeting with South African CSocD delegates: pictured left to right: APA UN intern Fahad Rahman; South Africa CSocD delegate Valerie Matlou; IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky; IAAP member and SPSSI UN rep Corann Okorodudu; South Africa CSocD delegate Sadi Luka; and IAAP IN intern Emily Lawson.



Pictured from left: IAAP UN reps Mary O'Neill Berry and Judy Kuriansky, Global Camps Africa director Phil Lilienthal, and South African CSocD delegate Valerie Matlou, at second meeting about collaboration.

The youth development and leadership initiative, under the Department of Social Development, is supported at the Ministerial level. The goals are to provide youth with life skills and heightened self-esteem to meet challenges and build leadership ability; to provide opportunities to develop awareness and understanding of community issues, problems and resources; to develop youth-led programs in their communities; and to work on ideas to improve their communities better. Director of the Department Luka explained that youth is defined as ages 18-35, in terms of four categories: youth at school; youth out of school; youth in institutions; and youth as Change Agents. To identify “Youth as Change Agents,” the Department assesses poor households and identifies able-bodied individuals who can change the household situation and serve as support for other individuals to achieve their dreams. The goals are to build local capacity and job-creating opportunities, and to have a household change agent and a community change agent in each district. Consistent with the focus on community development, community needs are assessed. One value-based program, for youth out-of-school who have not passed matriculation, offers an accredited program that serves as a bridge to enter university. Empowerment is very important; and supplements to the Life Skills currently provided in schools would be helpful. Education has to be practical and focus on developing the inner person. Drug and alcohol abuse, and also teen pregnancy rates, are very high in areas, so developing capacities in youth to avoid falling into these traps is crucial. To embellish programming already in the villages, Day Camps and Residential camps would be valuable, ideally for all four categories, year-round, starting with a general model that would be adapted for each of the four youth categories. A community facilitator would assist after the residential camp, when the campers return to their communities, to help develop local capacity. The community should also be invited to see the Camps, to foster community-building and social cohesion. After a year, all the attendees would be followed up to ascertain the outcome and assess what’s working well.

The challenge is the cost of such programming as financial resources are limited; additional donors from the private sector can be approached. Some camps have been run with students from private schools, which creates cross-subsidization; the ones who can pay subsidize the ones who cannot. This provides more cohesion. Boarding Schools or churches could be used as facilities. Phil noted that while Residential Camp programs are preferable, Day Camp programs are successful and cost considerably less. In terms of job development, many GCA counselors have gotten permanent jobs with other organizations (e.g. in the private sector and with NGOs) after having worked at the Camps.

Further meetings were held in South Africa with the GCA director (our IAAP partner) and Department of Social Development staff, who also visited the Camp. We hope to also meet during the International Congress of Psychology (ICP) in Cape Town, South Africa, July 2012.

The IAAP team welcomes contact from IAAP members and members of other psychological NGOs, about such projects and efforts. Contact DrJudyK@aol.com or mberry@sirota.com.

– Submitted by IAAP UN reps Judy Kuriansky and Mary O’Neill Berry

Part 12

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women: Welcome and Orientation Day Celebration to Thousands of Women From Around the World

Women from all over the world came to New York for the two-week long United Nations NGO Commission on the Status of Women (CSW56) held annually. This year's sessions were held from 27 February – 5 March 2012 (www.ngocsw.org). The consultation day serves as a welcome, celebration and orientation to the formal meetings of CSW56.

This year's CSW focused on Rural Women, and specifically on the eradication of poverty for this important population. Poverty eradication is UN Millennium Development Goal #1. An important issue is how gender inequality contributes to that plight.

The day-long event on 26 February was held at The Centennial Memorial Temple at Salvation Army Headquarters in New York. The day consisted of panels, a dance performance, lunch and afternoon workshops. The fee was \$80.

The dance performance was by the National Dance Institute, a not-for-profit organization founded by New York City Ballet star Jacques D'Ambroise. The program has impacted 2 million public school children through award-winning arts and learning programs. The honorary chair of their gala in May is actor Alec Baldwin.

Women luminaries welcomed the group. They included Madame Bachelet, the former President of Chile and now Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women; Lakshmi Puri, Women's Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, a position to which she was appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2011; and Ms. Maria Cunningham Kain, Chair of the UN Indigenous Peoples' Forum who is the NGO/CSW/NY Woman of Distinction Awardee. They addressed the need to empower rural women, as they play a critical role in overcoming poverty, lack of education, harvesting food, health care and conflict resolution. All three women called all countries to action to: make gender equality a reality by closing the gender gap; stop trafficking of young girls; allow women to own land and have access to credit; increase the number of women political participants; have women at peace tables; address the issue of land grabbing; and to have access to clean water, equal access to education, reproductive services and better health care services especially all services to support young mothers. They also called upon all women to appreciate themselves and have their dignity restored.

In introducing Ms. Bachelet, Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women NY Soon-Young Yoon asked "Would she be upset if people did not call her 'Excellency'?" and explained that since Bachelet values deeds more than words, she could be called "most excellent person." Bachelet emphasized that she has high expectations for including women in key policies and that women need to be permanently working together, not once a year. "I'm so excited," she said, noting the biggest participation this year, with about 4,000 organizations. "I share your experiences, we are all stakeholders, energized and inspired," she said, by hearing the voices of rural women and joining forces about women's rights. "Empowerment and energy are the answer," she said.

The keynote speaker was Ms. Maria Cunningham Kain, Chair of the UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues, this year's recipient of NGO CSW Woman of Distinction Award. An indigenous Miskita woman from Nicaragua, she became the first female Miskita doctor and later, after the Sandinista Revolution, she became the first female Miskita governor of the autonomous region, who played a role in the negotiation of peace agreements. "Indigenous women are the backbone of societies, custodians of our culture and caregivers of our land" she said, yet they are all-too-often not aware of their rights. She further, noted the importance of training and education, especially about entrepreneurship, in different languages.

Layla Alkhafaji is a female Iraqi human rights activist and women's rights defender who described how she witnessed the execution of 25 women and was a political prisoner who was tortured and sentenced to life imprisonment under Saddam Hussein's regime. She was released after the Gulf War, spent time in Canada and returned to later be elected to the Iraqi Parliament. Now, she says proudly, Article 29 of Iraqi law insists that 25% of representatives in Parliament are women. She emphasized that everyone talks of the Arab Spring as if it is new, when in fact it started in 1991 after the Kuwaiti invasion and media blackout.



Nobel Peace Laureate Laymah Gbowee.

The special guest speaker received a standing ovation as she came to the microphone. Laymah Roberta Gbowee is one of the three Black women awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace. Ms. Gbowee described her personal history, having to walk from checkpoint to checkpoint to get food. She reframed the focus of the previous speakers as she pointed to ways in which issues of rural women can be addressed. She described rural women as being "key participants" in achieving poverty reduction as she said, "All rural women know what needs to be done in their rural communities. We must empower them in what they already know." Rural women are taught sewing and tie-dye, and if they do not farm, they do not eat." She continued, "Rural

women have deep insight on how and why conflicts started," and that the world must therefore use this population as conflict analysts and peace builders. "These rural women are conflict analysts in their own right," she said. "There is no need to bring in experts." Passionately, she asked, "Are they getting recognized?" and answered, "No. Give them birth without loss of lives, education and access to safe water and their basic medical needs. Teach them food preservation and give them a machine instead of them having to bend." She said she will not sit in a plush office and design programs, but will identify women with nothing and give them \$1,000, imploring "we will stand behind you as you start your business." She applauded women starting finance clubs, building houses and farming co-ops. She described being disappointed when she attended Davos and spoke there, and was not well received for her comments about how women fear pregnancy and desperately need sex education and family planning.

A panel of women from NGOs and rural women followed the remarks of Ms. Gbowee. A remarkable woman from Zimbabwe, Nyaradzaid Gumbonzvanda who is Chair of NGO/CSW in

Geneva and a human rights lawyer, recounted stories about the challenges young rural women faced and continue to face in rural Africa. In her own childhood, she had one blanket and had to sleep next to a fire to stay warm. She spoke of how war and poverty affected her life and prevent women from getting an education. A rural woman from Ghana named Hilda told of the need for rural women to become leaders and “create safe spaces for people to tell their stories.” Nyaradzaid then told the story of why her sister had gotten married: it was the only way that her sister could insure that she could go to school. Her sister had knit a large and beautiful quilt, and it was only when Hilda brought out the quilt that we in the audience realized that Hilda and Nyaradzaid were the sisters to whom each had referred. “Issues about rural women are about our lives,” Hilda stated. “It is not fair for some to have, and others to have not. We need basic education, food security, and health care. We need to connect with reality . . . It is not fair for some to have and others not,” she declared.



The afternoon session offered three workshops: Orientation for new participants to CSW; Advocacy training; and Training for the Rural Women Leaders Speak Out.

At the advocacy workshop, resource person Charlotte Bunch spoke about UN Women Gear and what the agency is trying to achieve. She described the Global Town Hall, and that efforts should be focused on not just building coalitions among NGOs, but also on the country level, talking to your government and UN staff about your pragmatic work, not just writing out a document.

A theme was: Bring an issue, don't just try to be heard at the UN. Advice included: (1) coordinate local and government action (e.g. the 16 Days against Violence Campaign); (2) establish allies at the UN staff and governments; (3) find vehicles for that collaboration.

Rachel Harris from WEDO mentioned the technique of starting movements of women.

Astrid Stichelberger, a UN NGO representative for SPSSI in Geneva who is a psychologist, advised: (1) look at UN documents; (2) look at UN agencies; (3) look at partners in NGOs. She outlined the advocacy steps she personally engaged in, when advocating for human rights of aging. "You realize," she said, "Now you have an issue, like Human Rights, what do we need?" They tried to get wording inserted in official documents, and created panels, but nothing ended up in the texts. They tried oral statements and written statements with data (in 2006), requesting human rights, outlining what exists, what does not exist, and what they ask for, e.g. to get items in the agenda. They worked with a rapporteur. They got 25 NGOs to sign on to their statement (noting that a large number is best). The statement was submitted according to requirements to get a logo of the UN, that is very important; but what's even more important, she said, is to use the paper with the logo, to show it to governments and to stakeholders outside the UN. In 2009, they prepared the "Rights of Older Women" that was read and a recommendation was adopted. The outcome was that they created a working group on older persons. A Human Rights conclusion claimed that Old Age is Bad for Your Health, which sounded sensational, so it was picked up by the press. Her advice: (1) train yourself; (2) be clear on your statements; (3) work together, e.g. as happened at Beijing +20; (4) get official documents (e.g. with the UN logo) and use them.

The Q and A period ensued. IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky described the IAAP Girls Empowerment Programme, since it addresses issues the panelists in the morning sessions had all



IAAP rep Kuriansky asking the panel a question about advocacy on behalf of mental health.



Closing ceremony of the CSW56 orientation day.

spoken about. She noted the critical need for access to mental health services to rural women in order to empower them; described the statement and advocacy efforts of the psychology NGOs accredited at the UN about Psychology's Contributions to the Eradication of Poverty for Rural Women that followed all these resource persons' advice; and asked the panelists for further advice about how to go about being the most effective in getting attention to this specific issue and to get it included in the final CSW recommendations. Ms. Stickelberger responded that such an endeavor is very difficult, pointing out three problems in the issue of "mental health": (1) definition: the word "mental health" is confusing to many officials and people in general who think it means being "crazy" and there are different definitions (e.g. is it a term that is psychosocial, psychological or psychiatric); (2) treatment: some mental problems are culturally biased and some treatments, such as certain foods for mental health, work. Although this method may be controversial in some circles, she noted, others believe that "Food is mental health and it is cheap and accessible"; and (3) perception: She said, "Many do not think that mental health is even an issue but rather think that depression is just a personal problem and 'we just need to kick them (those suffering from depression) in their butt'."

For the closing ceremony, the chair asked all audience members under 30 years old and over 70 years old to come to the stage. The words of a song, projected on a screen, reinforced the message echoed throughout the forum, namely that we all must continue to fight for the rights of rural woman and girls globally.

On ensuing days of CSW 56, sponsored events included briefings; receptions; a "Rural Women's Speak-Out"; an Artisan Fair (to buy rural women's products); a regional dialogue with UN Women

(the organization); Learning Circles on Gender and Climate Change; caucuses (for regional areas, e.g. Latin America/Caribbean, West Asia/Arab, North America/Europe); a closing ceremony attended by the UN Secretary General and a Celebration March where each marcher wore a sash with a “cause.”

– Submitted by IAAP UN team Professional Affiliate Janice Bloch and IAAP UN Representative Judy Kuriansky

Part 13

“Transforming Communities through Psychosocial Empowerment of Poor Rural Women and Girls” – Parallel Event of the Psychology NGOs Accredited at the United Nations at the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations submitted a proposal for a Parallel Event Symposium, which was accepted for presentation at the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW56) at the United Nations (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/56sess>).



Presenters at the CSW 56 Psychology Caucus (pictured from left to right): Rucha Chitnis, India Director, Women’s Earth Alliance; Liliana Mayo, Ph.D., Ann Sullivan Institute, Peru; Maame Yelert-Obeng, Africa Director, Women’s Earth Alliance; Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D. International Association of Applied Psychology UN rep; Ushar Nayar, Ph.D., Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India; Christina Kirkman, Q & A moderator: APA UN Intern and CUNY graduate student; Chair: Deanna Chitayat, Ph.D. American Psychology Association; Mary O’Neill Berry, Ph.D., International Association of Applied Psychology UN rep; and Fahad Rahman, APA UN intern and Columbia University Teachers College graduate student.

htm) The 2012 CSW at the United Nations took place 27 February to 5 March at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The commission focused on rural women, poverty reduction, empowerment, and rural development; accordingly, the Psychology symposium, entitled “Transforming Communities through Psychosocial Empowerment of Poor Rural Women and Girls,” focused on initiatives of psychosocial empowerment of rural women and girls as a means of effecting positive socioeconomic change. The parallel event took place on 1 March 2012, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., on the fourth day of the CSW meetings, in one of the principal conference rooms at the North Lawn building of the UN where the main meetings of the delegations were being held. An effort was made to circulate announcements to the UN community, and the symposium was well attended, as well as being very well received.

The purpose of the symposium parallel event was to highlight ways in which programs of psychosocial empowerment can be instituted as a means for achieving positive social and economic change in the lives of women, girls, their families, and the communities of which they are a part. In order to achieve this aim, which reflects a number of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the symposium featured speakers who were both versed in the methodological and theoretical approaches to psychosocial empowerment in women and girls, and who also had extensive experience in the hands-on implementation and evaluation of these programs in communities around the world.

Dr. Deanna Chitayat, immediate past main representative of the American Psychological Association to the United Nations, served as the symposium chair, and Christina Kirkman, doctoral student and APA intern at the United Nations, served as the Q&A session moderator. Dr. Chitayat opened the symposium with a statement on behalf of the co-sponsoring Psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations; this statement was followed by three presentations, which included illustrative slides and video supplements. The first presentation, entitled “Marginalized Women and Girls in Rural India and Peru: A Journey of Empowered Citizenship with Psychosocial Interventions” was made by Liliana Mayo, Ph.D., of the Ann Sullivan Institute in Peru and Ushar Nayar, Ph.D., of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India. The second presentation, entitled “The Girl’s Empowerment Programme: Psychosocial Life Skills and Entrepreneurship Training in Africa” was jointly made by Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D. and Mary O’Neill Berry, Ph.D., both of whom are representatives at the United Nations for the International Association of Applied Psychology, and collaborators in the Girls Empowerment Programme and Camp held in Lesotho, Africa. The third presentation, entitled “Grassroots Rural Women Leaders on the Frontlines of Environmental and Climate Challenges” was made by Rucha Chitnis, India Director of the Women’s Earth Alliance, and Maame Yelert-Oheng, Africa Director of the Women’s Earth Alliance.

In her opening statement, Dr. Chitayat described the need for greater attention to psychological well-being and mental health in the UN policy initiatives aimed at poverty reduction and the empowerment of rural women. She highlighted the fact that poor mental health is both a consequence and cause of poverty, and discussed the unique characteristics and multiple stressors of life for rural women living in poverty that may make them particularly vulnerable to psychological distress and physical hardship. She concluded with a re-emphasis on the theme of the symposium: namely, the importance of using effective programs and practices to empower rural women and girls, thereby meaningfully transforming their lives and their communities, both socially and economically.

In the first presentation, “Marginalized Women and Girls in Rural India and Peru: A Journey of Empowered Citizenship with Psychosocial Interventions” Dr. Liliana Mayo and Dr. Ushar Nayar presented programs of intervention which have created lasting change in both Peru and India. Dr.

Mayo outlined the CASP (Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru) model and approach to intervening in the lives of poor women and girls with disabilities. CASP's approach is multilayered, in that it identifies these women and girls as members of families and communities with their own, unique abilities – CASP provides social support, job skills training, and assistance in practical education to women and girls living in poverty, enabling them to become independent, productive members of their communities and families. Their approach has been demonstrated to be particularly effective because it engages individuals along with their families, social communities, educators and other professionals, and the businesses that employ these women and girls. Additionally, program encourages family members to spread their new knowledge and awareness to others in their own communities. CASP also has developed an online, digitized system for promoting these programs and research, and is working to make this Global Disability Rights Library more accessible to rural, impoverished citizens who are so often overlooked. In this way, CASP both educates and empowers poor, rural women and girls with disabilities, and maximizes upon the technology to disseminate important knowledge and awareness.



In the latter portion of the presentation, Dr. Nayar explained some of the myths and preconceptions that exist regarding rural women and girls in India. She argued that these women and girls do, in fact, have very cogent, coherent conceptions of their goals and hopes for their own lives, their families and their communities. She outlined some key organizations, practices and policies which have been instrumental in helping them achieve these including SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) the NREGA (National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act) and the DDS (Deccan Development Society) among others. These agencies have aided the empowerment of India's very large population of rural women and girls in a way that is already very visible: they are becoming self reliant & confident entrepreneurs, are exercising control over their resources (community & family), building assets and contributing to meaningful breaks in the poverty cycle and participating in the democratic political process. As rural youth are becoming empowered, they contribute toward generational social change, in a changing economic and social landscape.

In the second presentation, "The Girls Empowerment Programme: Psychosocial Life Skills and Entrepreneurship Training in Africa," Dr. Judy Kuriansky and Dr. Mary O'Neill Berry addressed the United Nations MDGs of poverty reduction and women's empowerment through a model program of entrepreneurship and life skills training in Africa. The Girls Empowerment Programme (GEP) facilitates the empowerment of rural women and girls from the perspective of a multi-stakeholder model, engaging both civil society and local government in partnership that has been shown to be highly effective. The programme started from a meeting of the First Lady of Lesotho with Dr. Kuriansky at a Summit of the First Ladies of Africa in 2009 hosted by U.S. Doctors for Africa (for which Dr Kuriansky serves on the Board and as Director of Psychosocial Programs). The camp program was designed, in collaboration with Global Camps Africa, with all activities

geared to empowering the girls from remote villages to become more assertive, to learn about their rights and to initiate income-generating activities as a critical way out of transactional sex (trading sex for money for school fees, food or family needs), thereby reducing their risk for contracting HIV/AIDS. The dual-pronged approach – teaching life skills and entrepreneurship – emerged as a promising model. A unique feature of the program was a pilot of an extensive outcome evaluation, given that few such efforts are made to evaluate interventions (due in large part to lack of resources, culturally designed measures and funding). The results were highly promising; data from the 40 participants revealed significantly improved levels of self-esteem, a greater sense of empowerment, lower depression levels and increased direction in terms of social and economic capacity. In addition, the girls mentioned a desire to become leaders and mentors for their peers and in their communities, and a majority elected to be voluntarily tested for HIV/AIDS. The girls subsequently participated in a further training in IGA given by the government Ministry that partnered in the program. The project further demonstrated the value of cross-cultural collaboration.



IAAP's Drs. Kuriansky and Berry meet with the Staff of the Office of the First Lady of Lesotho and other multi-stakeholder partners.



Dr. Kuriansky with the GEP campers learning to use natural resources to be safe.



The GEP campers engaged in an activity teaching teamwork.



The GEP lesson on women's rights.

Dr. Kuriansky pointed out the value of media as a multi-stakeholder partner, showing samples of how she has been interviewed about the issues and programmes on UN Global Connections TV and South South News, and how the GEP has been profiled in prestigious publications, like Centerpoint Now, that reach both the UN community and general public and on international news websites like HUMNEWS. Kuriansky showed the video she produced about the camp demonstrating the actual exercises, which some parallel event attendees said would be very useful in their settings and with their populations, and that this model and associated practices should be circulated to be available for others to apply in their contexts. Dr. Kuriansky concluded by emphasizing the 3 E's: "Education, Empowerment and Entrepreneurship."



IAAP UN rep Dr Kuriansky with host Bill Miller on South South News TV talking about the GEP and other IAAP MDG projects.

In the last presentation, “Grass-roots Rural Women Leaders on the Frontlines of Environmental and Climate Challenges”, Rucha Chitnis and Maame Yelert-Obeng presented perspectives of women’s empowerment as fundamental in a time of environmental and social change. In both India and Africa, women represent a disproportionate portion of the rural population, are disproportionately affected by climate change, and bear the brunt of the burden of both agricultural



work and caretaking work. Women do 80% of the farm work but are not recognized as farmers; only men are allowed to be landowners and considered farmers, said Chitnis. Women are vulnerable, risking violence, rape and even attack by animals, said Yelert-Obeng. “We have to lift their spirit and break the cycle of dependence.” Chitnis recited a popular chant, “We are the women of India,

we are not delicate flowers.” Ms. Chitnis and Ms. Yelert-Obeng detailed the ways in which The Women’s Earth Alliance initiatives target the stereotypes that constrain women to so often go unrecognized for their work at both the social, community level, and also at the level of governmental policy (for example, in the inheriting of land titles). In one Earth Alliance initiative, the Women’s Food Security and Climate Change Training program, participants are educated in their rights as citizens, trained in new, sustainable farming methods, encouraged to think outside the boundaries of traditional stereotypes, and are educated in ways in which to exercise their socioeconomic and political agency. Psychosocial issues include mutual respect and building alliance between men and women, a positive sense of self, breaking stereotypes and the value of fun. “Lift your spirit and break the cycle of dependence,” said Yelert-Obeng. “Women are not helpless victims of poverty but active contributors to society,” Chitnis said. “We must change the narrative.”



After the three presentations, there was a half-hour session of Q&A, moderated by Christina Kirkman, UN intern with APA. During this session, it was strikingly evident that there is great concern for rural women living in poverty around the world and great interest in how psychosocial initiatives may transform communities through the empowerment of women and girls. The parallel event symposium featured remarkable speakers and attendees and demonstrated significant advances inherent in such programs for empowerment and poverty eradication for the world’s rural women and girls.

In response to a question about what challenges these presenters face in their work, many responses were offered. These include: resistance of families for women to go out of the home or out alone; lack of funding or lack of timely release of funds; traditions that still make girls second class

citizens; women internalizing oppression, preventing them from claiming their space, inadequate resources to make their dreams become reality. Changes of attitudes in society are still necessary. Also, sustainability is crucial. Dr Berry noted the value of implementing a program long-term into the education system, to insure its sustainability. An attendee acknowledged the importance of Dr. Kuriansky's references to the importance of media as a partner in such programmes; Dr. Mayo agreed, noting how their group always brings a journalist with them.

The session ended on a high note, with the recognition that NGOs and programs such as these need to work together, to not "reinvent the wheel," and they need to connect with UN agencies (a UN agency representative who attended the session committed to pursue collaboration).

– Submitted by Christina Kirkman, Doctoral student and APA UN Intern and IAAP UN representative Dr. Judy Kuriansky

Part 14

Statement submitted by the Psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations to the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, used for advocacy:

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY AMONG RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Recommendations submitted by Psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations¹:

American Psychological Association, Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention, International Association of Applied Psychology, International Council of Psychologists, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, International Union of Psychological Science, Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

The purpose of this statement is to advocate for governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to include psychosocial factors as significant, complementary dimensions associated with poverty and its alleviation. We offer the following **recommendations concerning the importance of psychosocial empowerment, mental health, and psychosocial well-being to achieve sustainable poverty reduction** in the lives of rural women and girls.

¹Psychologists who represent Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) accredited at the United Nations (UN) ECOSOC collaborate in the application of psychological principles, science, and practice to global challenges of the UN agenda, including those outlined in the Millennium Development Goals. These organizations seek to accomplish this overarching aim through advocacy, research, education and policy development guided by psychological knowledge and perspectives to promote human dignity and human rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders should prioritize poverty eradication resources for rural women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, to:

1. PROMOTE THEIR PSYCHOSOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

- a. Provide access to productive employment and decent work, which in itself promotes psychosocial empowerment by developing a **sense of ownership, optimism, and efficacy/confidence in their ability to be effective.**
- b. Increase and strengthen opportunities for training about entrepreneurship and income generating activities, as well as development of life skills including a **psychological sense of control over conditions of their lives.**
- c. Provide and strengthen **access to primary, secondary and higher education as important pathways to psychosocial empowerment,** decent work, and the alleviation of poverty.
- d. Engage rural women and girls living in poverty, including women and girls with disabilities, as **active partners in planning and operating programs at all decision-making levels.**
- e. Encourage and provide opportunities for **expanding and strengthening capacity-building community networks** through which rural women and girls can share and use information about entrepreneurial and social opportunities and **build their collective psychosocial empowerment.**
- f. Provide **equal access to economic opportunities and resources** (e.g. like micro-credit loans) for rural women and girls.
- g. **Reduce the physical and mental burden of paid and unpaid work by rural women and girls** by providing access to simple tools and technologies (such as solar ovens, pump wells, electricity, indoor plumbing, cell phones and the internet).

2. Promote Gender Equality, Human Rights, and Social Justice

- a. Put human rights, including gender equality, at the center of the framework for national development, especially in rural areas. **Discrimination against women and girls is psychologically damaging to their physical and mental health, lowering their self-efficacy, and keeping them in poverty.**
- b. Review and **replace laws, policies, programmes and practices at all levels that discriminate against rural women and girls** on the basis of their gender, age, race, ethnicity, color, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, rural/urban/suburban residence and other categories of social identity.
- c. **Eliminate educational, social, economic and health disparities,** which violate the human rights of rural women and girls to survival, protection, development, and social participation. **These disparities have multigenerational and intergenerational psychosocial consequences that contribute to the persistence of poverty in families and communities.**
- d. Provide public education to **eliminate stereotypes, and discrimination** against rural women and girls, which are **barriers to their social integration within society.**
- e. Provide ongoing **human rights learning** for all members of society, especially rural women and girls living in poverty, **to foster their physical and mental vitality, resilience**

and activism to alleviate poverty conditions as social injustices and to advocate for positive social and economic changes in their own lives and the lives of others.

- f. **Reduce gender stereotyping of work by educating boys and men** that caring for children, the elderly and the sick is family work to be shared by all. Develop community support services for child and elder care.
- g. Ensure that all **services and interventions are implemented according to ethical principles** and with respect for the human rights and dignity of all individuals, including rural women and girls.

3. **PROVIDE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

- a. **Reduce poor mental health as a cause and a consequence of poverty** in rural women by providing **accessible multidisciplinary social service centers and mobile vans** to provide one-stop services, including access to mental health care in rural areas. Include literacy, continuing education, and entrepreneurial training in these centers.
- b. Provide trained **psychologists and mental health counselors**, well versed in culturally-specific methodology and techniques, **to train and work with local community peer coaches, especially in rural areas**, to recognize mental health problems and to provide services and referrals in an informed, nondiscriminatory manner.
- c. Use a life-span, rights-based approach to implement the Social Protection Floor Initiative, including **access to mental health care within primary health care**, to take care of basic needs, which can result in multigenerational and intergeneration poverty.
- d. Offer low cost insurance or government **grants to provide health and mental health services** for rural women and girls.

4. **PROMOTE PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING**

- a. **Implement and enhance an effective Social Protection Floor** which would provide for basic needs for rural women and girls and other vulnerable groups, who would then be enabled and empowered **to achieve psychosocial well-being at a higher level of human functioning**.
- b. Expand the well-being indices included in the UN Human Development Report to **include psychosocial measures that reflect positive mental health**.
- c. Encourage and support other indices and measures of economic, social and sustainable development to include the assessment of psychosocial well-being and mental health.
- d. **Include “psychosocial well-being” in the Agreed Conclusions** of the 2012 UN Commission on the Status of Women.²

²The Royal Government of Bhutan initiated a resolution adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly, co-sponsored by 68 countries, that defines a new approach to development, and promotes the concept of well-being in its Gross National Happiness (GNHI) Index (<http://www.un.int/wcm/content/site/bhutan/pid/4106>); additionally, the 2010 UNDP Human Development Report includes perceptions of individual well-being and happiness (based on the GallupWorldPoll (<http://www.gallup.com>) and measures of civic and community well-being. These efforts are consistent with the initiative of France’s President Nicolas Sarkozy, who has called upon politicians to replace the GDP as a measure of national wealth with one that quantifies well-being alongside economic strength. These efforts need to be expanded to include psychosocial measures of mental health as dimensions of well-being.

5. EVALUATE PROGRAMS TO DETERMINE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

Strategies and programmes that are implemented need to be evaluated in accordance with scientific assessment methodology to **determine the degree to which the policies they are intended to address have achieved the desired effects in eradicating poverty.**

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Part 15

International Women's Day at CSW 56: Commemoration and Advocacy

The International Women's Day Commemoration took place in Conference Room 4 of the North Lawn Building of UN headquarters in New York City from 10 AM to 12 PM on 7 March 2012. The annual event, also known as the Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, celebrates women's achievements from all over the world. High-level officials celebrate the progress that has been made for gender equality and remind everyone what needs to be done for further empowerment of women. This year's moderator, Femi Oke, international broadcaster and correspondent for WNYC Radio's national syndicated news show "The Takeaway," enthusiastically welcomed the audience and introduced the first panel.



The International Women's Day Commemoration panelists (from left to right): Femi Oke; UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon; Chairperson of CSW56 Marjon V. Kamara; UN Women's Assistant Secretary-General Lakshmi Puri; and H.E. Mr. Mutlaq Al-Qahtani.



Attendees of the CSW56 International Women's Day.



H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General speaking at CSW56 International Women's Day.

At CSW56 International Women's Day, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made the opening remarks. He explained that empowering women and girls has been a priority since his first day in his post. Whenever he travels, his staff gives him data that includes the status of women in any country, mortality rates and the representation of women in Parliaments. After considering this data, he tells world leaders what he feels can be done to improve the situation, particularly with regard to the status of rural women. He shared that whenever he mentions the topic of gender inequality to men, they squirm and try to change the subject. "Perhaps, I

sound to them like a broken record," he joked. "However, what is really broken is when women are not treated fairly and not represented." He continued that "We have to change the men's mindset, but also the women's mindset. We cannot allow women to be treated as second-class citizens." He explained that he is happy to see that there are more women in positions as heads of state and government. "Women are exercising great influence. More women are going to school, growing healthier and realizing their potential," he said. "Investing in rural women is a smart investment in the nations of development," he explained, giving statistics that if rural women had the same access to productive resources as men, agricultural yields would increase by 4%, thereby improving food and nutrition security and relieving as many as 150 million people from hunger. Rural women could also help stop the hidden developmental tragedy of stunting, which affects almost 200 million children worldwide. Despite these benefits, women farmers only receive 5% of agricultural

extension services. “This makes no sense,” he noted, adding, “We must end this discrimination against women and girls.” He explained that today, we have more women in senior positions as well as more female special representatives than ever before. His goals are that more women will go to school and become involved in politics, and that men and boys will become partners in the fight against violence against women. He urged governments and civil society to promote gender equality and to empower women as a fundamental human right and as a force for the benefit of all, since the energy and talent of women and girls represents human kind’s untapped resource.

Following the Secretary General’s inspiring address, H.E. Marjon V. Kamara, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the UN and Chairperson the 56th session of the Commission of the Status of Women, stressed that women are economic agents in poverty eradication. For example, rural women play an important role in food production, accounting for 43% of the agricultural development and also being crucial decision-makers and managers.

His Excellency Mr. Mutlaq Al-Qahtani, Chef de Cabinet, Office of the President of the General Assembly of the UN (on behalf of the President of the General Assembly), said that women are agents of development, who are integral in attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development as a whole. He said that we need to do more to empower rural women so they can reach their full potential in the global economy. For example, rural women need access to land rights, financing, business opportunities, and protection from discrimination, inequality, violence and social exclusion.

Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, shared a video message with the audience. While progress has been made, she said, gender discrimination still exists. She asserted that social issues make it harder for women to reach their full potential, and pointed out that rural women and girls work long hours with little or no pay to produce a large amount of food. She added that women are farmers, entrepreneurs, and leaders, yet lack access to social services, which robs them of their full potential. “We simply cannot afford to leave women out,” she underscored.



H.E. Marjon V. Kamara speaking on the panel.



H.E. Mr. Mutlaq Al-Qahtani speaking on the panel at CSW56 International Women's Day.



UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet delivering a message via video.



International Women’s Day panelists from left to right: Marina Durano, Anne Itto, Femi Oke, Lakshmi Puri, Mishkat Al Moumin, Mirian Masaquiza and Yelena Kudryavtseva.

In the second panel of International Women's Day, Femi Oke introduced the speakers. Ms. Mishkat Al Moumin, Former Minister of Environment in Iraq and Founder and Director of the NGO Women and the Environment, shared a story about a girl who saw suspicious activity of someone burying a bomb in the ground and reported this to her father who believed her for the first time. Usually, she noted, men do not believe women when they report such suspicious activities. Fortunately, the perpetrator was captured and arrested. This girl is now a trainee for the Women and the Environment Organization and has attended training sessions on how to participate in environmental decision-making. Her story provided a good example of how a woman successfully used her voice to save her community.



Panelist Marina Durano.



Panelist Anne Itto.

Ms. Marina Fe Balmori Durano, Research Coordinator for Political Economy of Globalization and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) in Manila, Philippines, explained that economic performance, social opportunity, political voice and public reasoning are all deeply interrelated. Rural women's participation in all levels of development planning is an expression of the important relationship between democracy and development, which is necessary for the advancement of justice. "The United Nations cannot be seen to be doing anything less," she concluded.

Ms. Anne Itto, Former Caretaker Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and the current Deputy Secretary General of the Sudan and People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the Republic of South Sudan, stressed that treating rural women as victims and incapable of handling technology and voices is outdated. "There is no woman or rural person who is so deaf that they cannot contribute to the decision-making," she said, "The problem is sometimes that we don't reach them with the right information and message for them to make

decisions." She advised, "We must make people understand what democracy is about, the role they can play and remove the remaining hard roads because these hard roads will affect their socioeconomic status, how they can reach elections, and ability to contest as women candidates. If we can focus on that, there is no limit; it is possible for women to vote and to contest and win."

As a rural woman, Ms. Mirian Masaquiza, Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, shared her perspective on how education enabled her to succeed. Thanks to the decision of

her parents and ancestors, she was able to receive an education, which made it possible to learn the many tools that many indigenous women in the communities don't have access to. She explained her position that education brings about reflection, and enrichment, of the ethnic identity of the indigenous movement. Indigenous women wonder what their role is, she said, and think about alternative feminist identities. Since they are now presented with new and positive roles to play in society, they face the challenge of breaking the long cycle of subordination and lack of self-esteem and confidence. But she warned, they should not deny the traditional feminine roles of their people; instead, they



Panelist Mirian Masaquiza.

should bring forth ancestral roles involving the duality and reciprocity between men and women. Indigenous people must tap into the knowledge of their people to understand their history and, at the same time, think about the inequality that indigenous women continue to suffer everyday in their lives and communities. She continued to explain that as more indigenous women travel to other countries, they see a women's movement that has faced inequalities and built partnerships. She said that indigenous women must continue to share their knowledge of who they are. With or without university degrees, they are agents for change. Even though indigenous women constitute a diverse group, they have common priorities, collective demands and common paths beyond their territorial borders.

Ms. Yelena Kudryavtseva, UN Women Sub-regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, gave a brief report of experiences in Central Asia since 2003 aimed at improving women's human rights with land reform, noting that women have gained land rights to become leaders in their communities. Yet, rural women still face obstacles; they have less access to agricultural assets, and products and services; lower levels of management positions; and limited knowledge about their rights. This is exacerbated by patriarchal customs and social practices that prevent them from seeking information or claiming their rights. Fortunately, she noted, as a result of persistent advocacy by women's groups and NGOs, discrimination is being removed.



Panelist Ms. Yelena Kudryavtseva.

Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of UN Women, emphasized that gender equality is everyone's mission and that rural women are key to the realization of all the MDGs. "We have to strongly push for the gender equality in women's empowerment, in respect of rural women," she said. "Why? Because they are doubly disadvantaged as women and because they are rural." She explained that rural areas are more remote with less access to infrastructure, social services, and water. For example, women spend 40 billion hours every year in sub-Saharan Africa to fetch water. But, she emphasized, women are not just victims or the



Panelist Lakshmi Puri.

subjects of poverty and hunger, they are agents of change. “They are making use of their voice and we need to amplify those voices,” she said. “We want to support these women’s self-help groups and women’s agency of change. We have to measure how we are making a difference and how we are not making a difference.”

To close the session, a video was shown from UN Women, that described the situation of rural women. Rural women and girls comprise of ¼ of the world’s population. They are at the forefront of key issues of the global agenda that revolve around food security, sustainable development and poverty reduction, and, in addition, they work to feed the world. Yet, they need equal access to resources, services, and opportunities to be more productive. What is needed: to end discrimination that limits women’s access to land, property and inheritance; to give rural women equal access to credit, farm services, tools, technology and markets; and to encourage women’s leadership and participation in all levels of government. Financing for rural development must honor the rights and priorities of women and girls. Not only should we deliver our international commitments to women’s rights and equal opportunities, but also we must empower women and unlock their potential.

Advocacy on behalf of Psychology’s Contribution to the Eradication of Poverty among Rural Women and Girls

In an exchange with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the meeting, IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky had the unique opportunity to present the statement of the Psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations submitted at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on “Psychological Perspectives on the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls as a Strategy for Eradication of Poverty.” She summarized the positions and he graciously took the statement and expressed appreciation and interest in further discussion about psychological perspectives on issues of global importance.



IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky giving UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon the statement for CSW prepared by the Psychology NGOs accredited at the UN.

In the spirit of cooperation with other NGOs and stakeholders, Dr. Judy discussed common goals with Queen Mother Dr. Delois N. Blakely, the Community (honorary) Mayor of Harlem, which can be presented to the Secretary General.



Pictured from left to right: IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky; Queen Mother Dr. Deloise Blakely; UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon; and Tenin Touré, President of the NGO, Action Aides aux Familles Demunies.

– Submitted by Alicia Cho, IAAP UN Intern

Part 16

The New NGO Task Force on Human Trafficking at the United Nations: IAAP takes a lead

Formation of the new Task Force

IAAP representative to the United Nations, Martin Butler, was asked by Eva Sandis, International Council of Psychologists UN representative and chair of the NGO Committee on Migration at the United Nations, to convene the task force on human trafficking. He gladly and willingly accepted

the assignment. His task force consists of Russell Lum, representative for the Little Sisters of the Assumption; Erica Carlino, chapter director of Girls Learn International, Inc. and Ph.D. candidate at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Science; and two interns from Fordham University, Tracee Weston and Eva Lessinger.

Panel at the Commission on the Status of Women

The first major undertaking of the task force was organizing a panel discussion for the NGO Committee on the Status of Women 56: “Rural Women and Children: A High-risk Group for Trafficking in Persons.” Common issues of trafficked women and children in a global context with a concentration on Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America was discussed. The parallel event was held on 8 March 2012 at the UN Church Center. Sheepa Hafiza, director, Gender Justice and Diversity, and Advocacy for Social Change, of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) traveled from Bangladesh as an honored guest. Other panelists include Lori Cohen, senior staff attorney at the Center for Battered Women’s Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families; and two program coordinators from the Polaris Project: Kate Keisel-Stagnone and Cristol Solario. Erica Carlino served as moderator. The experts concurred on several issues. The same patterns are seen across various cultures. The problem is enormous. Governments and civil society must cooperate to end trafficking. Multi-fronted efforts have been made, but it is hard to assess the degree of progress. The same patterns are seen.

Update on Important Legal and Psychological Issues for Survivors

In my role as an IAAP representative at the United Nations and convener of the task force on sex trafficking, I am following major developments in the field of sex trafficking. The following is a report of a symposium on this topic at an academic institution that informs global work on the subject.

Fordham Law School hosted a symposium, “Serving Sex Trafficking Survivors, Collaboration Between Civil and Criminal Proceedings,” on February 2, 2012 at Fordham Law School. Professor Michael W. Martin, who teaches law at Fordham University School of Law, served as moderator and introduced the topic and panel.

The first speaker, Judge Toko Serita, presides over the Queens Prostitution Diversion Court, Queens Misdemeanor Treatment Center, and the Queens Mental Health Recovery Center. She observed that New York is in the forefront of different courts. Many prostitutes are actually victims of trafficking. Prostitution is an offense, but there is little recognition that the offender might be trafficked. Trafficking victims were identified. They might be underage. They are American and local and foreign-born girls and women. In New York, these include African-Americans, Latinas, and Latin trans-women, among others. Women are exploited by debt-bondage and forced servitude. They may have no identification to obtain a legitimate job.

Services have developed to serve the trafficked: Prostitution Diversion Court, Urban Justice Center, New York Asian Women’s Center, the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program (SAVI) program at Mt Sinai School of Medicine, Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS), and Sanctuary for Families, for example.

There have been legal efforts as well. The Post Conviction Relief Statute 2010 improves upon earlier legislation. Prostitution convictions can be vacated and dismissed if the person convicted was a victim of trafficking. Judge Serita advocates for coordinated judicial responses, specialized courts, and uniform and institutional change. She added trafficking is a multi-million dollar industry and a national epidemic. We cannot go on with business as usual.

Professor Bridgette Carr directs the Human Trafficking Clinic (HTC) at the University of Michigan Law School and has performed anti-trafficking work in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America. She works with those who are sex and labor-trafficked. Victims are domestic and foreign. We need an advocate who represents only the victim's interests. There are international aspects. An example might be a strip club that uses women trafficked from the Ukraine. We need to look at what business benefit from human trafficking. Prof. Carr noted that what is happening in New York for the trafficked is very important. The rest of the world is watching. We also need to see what is happening in other countries such as Sweden. Remedies include considering other areas of law and putting a spotlight on legal protection. There should be international conventions and greater interface and collaboration.

Advocate and senior staff attorney at Sanctuary for Families, Lori Cohen, provided aspects on physical and psychological sequelae from trafficking. Physically, there might be signs of abuse: fractures, bruises. Sexually transmitted diseases might be present. Unwanted pregnancies can result.

Psychological consequences are huge. Many of the trafficked self-medicate by using drugs and alcohol. There might be trauma bonding with the trafficker. A mistrust of authorities and service providers can result. The victim might feel shame and experience self-blame. Anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociation, and memory loss might occur. Victims can display minimization and denial of the experience, numbness and flattened affect. When working with the trafficked it might be best to shy away from direct questions. Victims might or might not be cooperative with those assisting them. Consideration also has to be given to the possibility that the trafficked have had threats made against their families in order to keep the victim in servitude.

Assistant United States Attorney Amanda Kramer serves as the Office's Human Trafficking Coordinator for the Southern District of New York. She provided a brief history of applicable law. She noted that travel is not necessary for trafficking to occur under federal law. The main issue is "sale" which can involve interstate commerce, even over the Internet. There is no federal charge for prostitution. Chapter 77 offenses can be considered. There might be money-laundering or violations of labor laws, the Mann Act, and immigration laws.

The government offers housing, food, legal, translation, and medical assistance. Victims cannot be forced to accept aid. Restitution for those who are trafficked needs to be imposed at sentencing. Prosecutors need to position a plea with restitution. Victims might be compensated for transportation costs, lost income and attorney fees. Medical and psychological services, and physical and/or occupational therapies might be necessary. A defendant might have few assets, however. Fifteen percent of what an offender earns in jail goes to victims. In the end there might be a lot of work for what might be no monetary compensation.

During the discussion other approaches arose. If businesses want to decrease the risk of trafficking, they might install surveillance cameras. Thus, evidence can be kept for use by law enforcement personnel. Businesses can develop corporate social responsibility divisions. Taxi drivers might be profiting from the proceeds of trafficking. There is a challenge: trafficking victims tend to be very well-picked. They need to be re-humanized so they don't become victims again, even from the legal or civil processes.

– Submitted by Martin Butler, Ph.D., IAAP NGO Representative to the United Nations

Part 17

Sustainable Development and Migration: an update on the UN NGO Committee in preparation for Rio+20

IAAP maintains its relationship with the UN NGO Committee on Migration, and IAAP UN Representative Martin Butler has been active in this area. On January 12, 2010, he attended a presentation “The Impact of Sustainable Development on Migration, A Discussion in Preparation for RIO+20, June 2012.” The entire UN community has been gearing up for the meeting in Rio, called “Rio+20” about sustainable development.

Mary Jo Toll of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur spoke on the slow onset of climate changes caused by such processes as drought and heavier monsoons. Small island nations and coastal cities are losing land. A large number of people are moving who will not return. They can no longer fish, farm or maintain their former lifestyles.

Environmental psychologist and former IAAP representative Peter Walker detailed issues on environmental migration. He noted, “If you are not a major group, you have little impact.” Agenda 21, the UN developed program for transitioning to sustainability in the 21st century, addresses major groups.

Dr. Walker further indicated that economic development, social equity, and environmental protection need to be converged for sustainable development. At Rio+20, 20 years since the 1992 Earth Summit/United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, restructuring and the green economy will be discussed. A way to introduce migration needs to be found.

During the discussion, Dr. Walker noted that there will be stateless people, since states and nations will be eliminated. The Maldives, Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu Islands, among others, are especially threatened. As the planet is occupied and land masses have been claimed, where will the displaced go? One audience participant stated that people are moving into dangerous areas.

The moderator, Corann Okorodudu, psychologist and representative to the United Nations of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, indicated the need to lobby and develop a relatively short and focused advocacy document to address concerns and provide strategies for government and civil society to take. If a conference is attended, a short statement from the advocacy document can be extracted and addressed to the larger body by the attendee. This statement could be put on paper and given to a “friendly government” to take action on the point.

Eva Sandis, chair of the NGO Committee on Migration and International Council of Psychologists’ representative, stated that there are intervention documents. Two attendees then volunteered to head a task force on writing a statement.

– **Submitted by Martin Butler, Ph.D., IAAP UN representative**

Part 18

International Psychology, What Students Need to Know: DVD now available

“I’ve heard the word ‘international psychology’ but need to know what it really is,” asks one student. Another wonders, “I’ve always been interested in international psychology, but how do I go about making it a career?”

Given the growing interest in global issues and the growing number of psychologists doing work around the world, an increasing number of students are interested in knowing more about what international psychology is, what international psychologists do and how they can get involved, the International Division of the APA has released a DVD on the topic.

The DVD, “International Psychology: What Students Need to Know” informs students about the international nature of psychology and offers advice about a career in the field of international psychology. It is available in a 35-minute documentary version and a 9-minute trailer.

The full version DVD can be used for individual viewing or for discussion in the classroom setting. It is divided into different sections, which can be used separately for particular classroom lessons. The sections include the definition of International Psychology; profiles of international psychologists (where they work, subjects they work on, and with whom they work); psychologists’ activities and opportunities for students at the United Nations; students’ descriptions of their international projects and funding; advice for students from international psychologists about starting a career in International Psychology; resources to find out more about International Psychology; and guidelines about what makes International Psychology a good fit for the student.

Students featured in the DVD address many questions about what international psychology is and how they can get involved.

The executive producers are international psychologists, Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D., IAAP UN rep and the APA International Psychology Division liaison to the Committee on International Relations,



Dr. Uwe Gielen, co-executive producer of the DVD.

and Uwe Gielen, Ph.D., Past President of the APA International Psychology Division and Director of the Institute for International and Cross-Cultural Psychology at St. Francis College in New York City.

International psychologists featured in the video represent continents including Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. Countries from around the world are also represented, including Argentina, Canada, China, Dubai, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey, the United States and many others.



Judy Kuriensky, Ph.D., co-executive producer of the DVD, leading a public seminar in Beijing, China, in a profile filmed by CBS News.



Dr. Raymond Hamden in Dubai.



Yesim Korkut, Ph.D. in front of the bridge in Istanbul connecting the continents of Asia and Europe.



A discussion group of women from different countries.

Professionals and students are interviewed at various international conferences, including the International Congress of Psychology (ICP) in Berlin, Germany, the Middle East and North Africa Regional Conference in Amman, Jordan, and the American Psychological Association convention in San Francisco.

Many international psychologists are interviewed who belong to international psychological organizations, including IAAP, IUPsyS, APA, IACCP, SPSSI, ICP and others. IAAP psychologists in the DVD include IAAP Past Presidents Ray Fowler from the U.S. and Michael Knowles from Australia, IAAP Secretary-General Janel Gauthier from Canada, IAAP Treasurer Elizabeth Nair from Singapore, IACCP Past President James Georgas from Greece, and IAAP division chairs and board members Saths Cooper from South Africa, Han Buxin from China, Sarlito Sarwano from Indonesia, Juan José Sanchez-Sosa from Mexico and Tadeusz Tyszka from Poland. IAAP student division chair Kristina Potocnik describes her interest in the field and gives advice to her peers about how to get involved.



Janel Gauthier
Laval University, Quebec, Canada



Sarlito Wirawan Sarwono, PhD
University of Indonesia



Sathu Cooper, PhD
Kendall Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Johannesburg, South Africa





IAAP UN representatives in the DVD include Mary O'Neill Berry noting what IAAP reps do at the UN, Florence Denmark speaking about new areas in the field and Judy Kuriansky describing how international collaborations can come about and talking with international students.





IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky talking with students at the MENA conference in Amman, Jordan.

APA members in the video include Richard Velayo (also an ICP UN rep) speaking about student use of new technology and Danny Wedding explaining Fulbright opportunities. APA CEO Norman Anderson speaks about the importance of Psychology Day at the UN and Senior Director of the APA Office of International Affairs Merry Bullock describes services for those interested in getting involved in the field.



Argentinian psychologist Liliana Pedron deMartin from the Argentinian Psychoanalytic Association talks about the importance of Freud; Jordanian psychologist Nazih Hamdi, Professor on the Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Jordan in Amman, notes the value of applying different cultural perspectives; and Japanese psychologist Takashi Naito, Professor at Ochanomizu University in Tokyo talks with his students about cross cultural differences in psychological concepts in Japan and Thailand.



Japanese Professor Takashi Naito with his students in Tokyo.



Argentinian psychoanalyst Liliana Pedron deMartin in Buenos Aires.



Professor Nazih Hamdi with his students in Jordan.

IAAP past award honoree Ralf Schwarzer talks about his fulfilling experiences supervising doctoral student in international projects in the field of health psychology.



Students also talk about their research. A Clark University student describes her study of bystanders in the Rwanda genocide and a University of Tennessee student tells of her research comparing 1,000 American, English, and Chinese general managers with respect to job performance and satisfaction. Early career professionals from Nigeria and Pakistan meet for the first time and become excited about collaborating on cross-cultural research on faith healing. An early career psychologist makes a plea for more research about gay men of color overcoming heterosexism and racism.



Students and young professionals talking about their research.



A screening and discussion of the DVD took place February 24 at the mid-winter meeting of the Division of International Psychology (Division 52) of the American Psychological Association, held in Las Vegas Nevada. The meeting was in conjunction with the conference of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research. Presenting the DVD and discussing the development and process of the film were its executive producers, Drs. Uwe Gielen and Judy Kuriansky.

The audience reception was exceptionally positive, offering comments about usefulness of the film in academic settings.

The Past President of the Peace Division of APA who was in attendance was so impressed that she requested a similar video be made to educate about peace and to promote the peace division. She appreciated the extensive footage and wanted to know who did the filming and how it got done; it was explained that Judy Kuriansky did the videotaping over years of being in many different countries for projects or conferences. Over 50 hours of filming was compressed into 35 minutes, leaving a treasure trove of information, profiles and commentary from international psychologists and students that can still be edited and presented.

Level of interest in the field was notably higher on a survey of student viewers, and student reactions after classroom and individual viewing have reflected that the aims of the DVD are being achieved.

“I’m so glad I watched this video because now I feel more empowered about my decision to continue my studies with the goal of being in this international field of psychology and doing this

kind of research,” remarked IAAP UN student intern and psychology undergraduate at St. Francis College, Jeannette Raymond. IAAP UN intern Allison Maranuk said, “I found the DVD to be particularly helpful because it not only explained the topic but it interviewed leaders in the field about how people like me could take action.” Maranuk had a fellowship in Brazil after graduating from Smith College and plans to apply to psychology graduate programs.

The trailer was subsequently shown at a presentation by Dr. Kuriansky for International Night at St Francis College organized by the Leo Club, the student arm of the Lions Club. Students expressed great interest in the field, including students majoring in fields other than psychology (e.g. economics and international affairs). Several were enthusiastic to pursue their interest and delighted to learn about the college’s Institute for International and Cross-Cultural Psychology founded and headed by Dr. Gielen. Students also approached Dr. Kuriansky to get more involved in IAAP’s work at the United Nations and field projects in Africa and Haiti.

“With decreasing global divides, an increasing number of students want to know how they can get involved in work with colleagues around the world,” notes Kuriansky, who has been teaching graduate psychology students in many countries for years, and has shown the DVD to many of her students.

The DVD was recognized with an Accolade achievement award in the category of “Educational/instructional media.”

The 9-minute trailer is available free of charge and can be downloaded from the APA Division 52 website at <http://www.itopwebsite.com/InternationalPsychology/HOME.html>. The trailer is also available on Youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHbJZxQodxI>.

The DVD will be screened at a session at ICP2012 in Cape Town in a session with Drs. Kuriansky and Gielen, with discussion about its use and internationalizing the curriculum. Copies of the DVD and informational material will be available at the meeting.

– Submitted by IAAP UN representative **Judy Kuriansky**

Part 19

“THE FORGOTTEN BOMB”: Film Screening and Discussion at the United Nations about Disarmament

“To realize a world free of nuclear weapons is a top priority of the United Nations and the most ardent aspiration of human beings.”

–United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

On 2 February 2012, the DPI/NGO Relations held a briefing about disarmament, that included two speakers and a screening of the documentary “The Forgotten Bomb.” The film, directed by New Mexican filmmakers Bud Ryan and Stuart Overbey, identifies the immediate need for “a world free of nuclear weapons,” while painting a terrifying yet educational picture of the nuclear age and

the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. The movie focuses on the political, physiological, and social impact that nuclear weapons and energy have had on the world, as a result of events like the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Cold War.



Caption: Poster for the film "The Forgotten Bomb"

The film follows host Bud Ryan's journey to locations in Japan and the United States and through the various aspects of the nuclear debate from speaking to atomic bomb survivors in Japan to the birthplace of the atomic bomb in New Mexico. The film examines the history of nuclear weapons and their continuing effect on health, attitudes and policy. Interviewees include anti-nuclear activists, atomic scientists, atomic bomb survivors, politicians and others, including Secretary of State George Schultz under Richard Nixon.

The film paints a bleak picture on the use of nuclear weapons and energy and makes the agenda of disarmament very clear. At museums in the USA and Japan, comparisons are made between what is, and is not, exhibited, suggesting that museums in the U.S. are not telling the full story of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Testimony from survivors of the bombings in Japan, describing the horrors they experienced, are given in the film. Archive government footage shows the claims years ago that nuclear science was safe and only for "good."



The horror of nuclear explosions is brought home in personal stories, including one family's distress that a nuclear test facility is dumping nuclear waste near their home. When a small ditch in their backyard is scanned with a Geiger counter, it becomes evident that a high density of nuclear waste is present.

Panelist Randy Rydell is Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Office for Disarmament Affairs, who collaborated with DPI at the Mexico DPI/NGO Conference in 2009 on the

topic of disarmament. Mr. Rydell spoke about the history of nuclear disarmament, quoting film producer Peter Bogdanovich, that the criteria for judging a picture's success is based on time, and that time will tell. He outlined UN involvement in disarmament: nuclear disarmament is mentioned twice in the UN charter and in 1959 the UN's goal was to pursue the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. He noted some progress: there are now five regional nuclear free zones and almost the entire Southern Hemisphere is nuclear weapons free and there have been reductions on stockpiles of nuclear weapons from over 70,000 to around 20,000. Many people in the world live in countries that rely on nuclear deterrents, defending their use with arguments that their use is fully legal and for

defense purposes. As a result, such weapons are continually being developed. Additionally, nuclear weapons are seen as a level of status and prestige. Mr. Rydell explained that there have been stalemates in the UN and deep divisions in the General Assembly about disarmament which has led to deliberations about new guidelines for disarmament. There are, and will continue to be, challenges ahead, he said. There is an implementation gap between the commitments with member states through treaties and political statements. There have been talks of commitment over many decades, but there is a lack of infrastructure to execute the commitments. He expressed concern over a lack of “agencies, budgets, regulations, plans, and long-term timetables” and noted that there is no way for these issues to be addressed without the “support of civil society.” With this, he saluted the filmmakers for their hard work and attempt to educate the world about the pending nuclear crisis.

Panelist John Burroughs, is the Executive Director for the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy. He compared other films, “Countdown to Zero” and “In Our Lifetime,” to the “Forgotten Bomb” and commended the filmmakers for portraying the “unsung heroes” of the nuclear age. These are the survivors of the atomic Bombings in Japan, known as the hibakusha. He is glad that these survivors have stepped forward to relay the message that no one should have to suffer like they did. He also acknowledged the Atomic Veterans, noting that they had to work very hard to rationalize dropping the bombs. He posed this question: “Has the bomb really been forgotten or are we in denial?” In answer, he noted that nuclear weapons have outlasted the Cold War, so they have not been forgotten, certainly not by groups like the Atomic Veterans. But he thinks some denial about nuclear weapons persists. He did have a few minor critiques of the film, noting that it did not cover either international law or the UN. He concluded by acknowledging Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs who recently stepped down from his post, who helped make the abolition of nuclear weapons part of the world conversation.

At the Q&A session, many comments and questions addressed the use of the bomb in World War II as well as nuclear policies concerning Iran. Some audience members related personally to the topic; for example, Ruth Goodgold said that she has friends buried in the ships in Pearl Harbor, and that her brother was in the Navy at the time of WWII and at the time the bombing seemed like the right thing to do.

There was debate over whether or not the bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki really ended the war. Mr. Burroughs mentioned that before the bombs were dropped, the USSR declared war on Japan on August 8, 1945. “A nation that feels itself in the right can commit an atrocity to bring a war to an end,” he said. Stalin’s mobilization of one million troops in Manchuria was cited as another reason the war would have ended without the use of the bombs. It was also noted that between 18-20 cities were devastated during the seldom- talked-about fire bombings in Japan, so in the scope of the things at that time, the bomb in Hiroshima was not deemed such big news.

Making a point to speak about Iran, Mr. Rydell mentioned that Iran has an inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy but their non-compliance with reporting their use of atomic energy has created a serious problem. Rydell noted that war is constantly spoken about as an answer to this issue with Iran, but constant talk of war gives Iran an incentive to keep developing nuclear weapons to defend itself.

In closing statements, Mr. Burroughs said that the film had a real human touch to it and really shed a light on participants in the nuclear age. He said that the nuclear age is a dehumanizing one and the film is a shining example of reclaiming our humanity. In Mr. Rydell’s closing statement, he said that no one should give up on what they believe even if people claim those goals are “utopian and unachievable.” He recommended responding with a “combination of logic and

reason.” His message was to always stand your ground with regard to nuclear disarmament and emphasized continuing to “persist in the face of adversity” and maybe one day we will be able to live in a nuclear free society.

– Submitted by Jeannette Raymond, IAAP UN intern

Part 20

International Day of Commemoration In Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust: Bulgaria Stands Up to the Nazis

“It is criminal to impose your spiritual beliefs on your fellow man,” said Bishop Boris Kharalampiev Parzadjik of Bulgaria. He explained that this attitude is held by all the Bulgarian people, especially during times of turmoil and hate.

The Bishop was speaking at The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, a briefing held by the United Nations Department of Public Information/NGO sector on 26 January 2012. The event was intended as a reminder of the horror one human can inflict on another. Whenever stories of the Holocaust are told, there is always a focus on the atrocities of genocide, the victims of discrimination, and of course those who managed to survive. However, there is rarely a story of bravery, heroism, and even tolerance. In contrast, this briefing highlighted the tolerance and understanding exhibited by the Bulgarian community during World War II.





Pictured from left to right Panelists Misha Avramoff, co-director of Project Ezra and Gunnar Alden from the Swedish Permanent Mission to the UN; and moderator UN DPI Information officer/NGO Relations Cluster Gail Bindley-Taylor Sainte.

The briefing began with a story of tolerance and understanding about Raul Wallenberg, told by Gunnar Alden, Head of the Political Section from the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations. In 1944, the United States established the War Refugee Board (WRB), an organization whose sole purpose was to save Jews from the violence abroad. The WRB needed someone to head a mission to save the Jews in Budapest and once the WRB discovered that Sweden was working to save Jews in Hungary, that nation set out to find someone to head a rescue mission in Budapest. Wallenberg was that someone. In June of 1944, Wallenberg became the Second Secretary at the Sweden Diplomatic Mission in Budapest. After being appointed to this position, Wallenberg issued 13,500 Swedish passports to Jews in Budapest. He even rented buildings where Jews could seek refuge; these became known as “Swedish houses.” In 1945, the Soviet Union invaded Hungary and arrested Wallenberg. No one knew what his fate would be. Twelve years later, in 1957, the Soviet Union produced documents claiming that he had died in his cell in 1947. After his death, he became an honorary citizen of the United States, Canada, and Israel. Alden said that Wallenberg was fearless and a true leader, a hero, an inspiration and a beacon of hope that one day we can all stand up for our fellow man.

Excerpts from the film, “The Optimist,” were shown. The film tells the story of the Bulgarian Jews during World War II. The beautifully crafted film is about tolerance, peace, and standing up for human rights.

The film tells the story of how World War II officially began on September 1, 1939; in 1941, Bulgaria was officially occupied by the Nazis. Soon after, the Jews of Bulgaria could not go out after nine o’clock at night until six o’clock the next morning; they were prisoners in their own country. Then, they were banned from the main streets of the city and many Jewish professionals were no longer allowed to practice. Shortly after this rule was implemented, all the Jews in Bulgaria were forced to wear the infamous yellow star. The Bulgarian people were horrified by these new laws and in solidarity with their friends and neighbors, many Bulgarians who were not Jewish wore the yellow star.

In 1941, Germany also invaded Greece and Macedonia; this was the year that the “final solution” was implemented. In the summer of 1942, the Bulgarian Commissioner of Jewish Affairs during World War II, Alexander Belev, a known anti-Semitic, began to implement the Nazis’ “final

solution,” via a secret and unknown agreement between Germany and Bulgaria. Germany promised that if they won the war, Bulgaria would acquire Greece and Macedonia as territories, but only if Bulgaria gave Germany 20,000 Jews. Belev knew going into this agreement that there were only about 11,000 Jews in all of Macedonia and Greece, so he decided that the remaining 6,000 Jews would have to come from Bulgaria. One year later, this plan was put into motion.

On March 3, 1943 at 3:00 a.m. the police banged on the doors of the homes of the Jews of Bulgaria. They were all escorted to a nearby school playground, suitcases in hand. Families, friends, and colleagues, sat in the schoolyard all night long fearing for their lives.

As news of the deportation spread throughout Bulgaria, citizens were outraged and the Orthodox Christian church openly opposed the deportation. Four Christian men even traveled to Sofia to try and stop the deportation. They marched right up to the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Bulgaria and Minister of Justice, Dimitar Peshev, demanding answers. He was outraged to hear what these men were saying since he had no idea that this was going on in his own country. The five men marched right in to the office of the Minister of the Interior, Peter Gabrovski. Peshev commanded Gabrovski to cancel the deportation of all the Jews of Greece, Macedonia, and Bulgaria or else Peshev would expose the secret deportation plan to the entire nation. Gabrovski refused. He said the deportation of the Bulgarian Jews would only be halted, however the Jews of Macedonia and Greece were sentenced to die at the hands of the Nazis.

Late the next day, the Bulgarian Jews who sat in the school playground were finally freed.

After the incident between Peshev and Gabrovski, Peshev was fired and the Bulgarian government exported all the Jews of Sofia to outer provinces “pending their deportation.” However, all the male Jews of Bulgaria between the ages of 20 to 46 were sentenced to work in labor battalions.

As Germany began to lose the war, the lives of the Bulgarian Jews slowly improved; for example, they were able to travel to Sofia with special permission. Finally, when the Soviet army reached Bulgaria in the summer of 1944, the deportation and all other anti-semitic laws were not enforced. Although the Jews of Bulgarian suffered tremendously, they evaded death.

The discussion after the film focused on how the film is a reminder of the perseverance of the human spirit. It evokes a sense of hope and freedom. There is a great deal of humanity in the saving of the Bulgarian Jews; it proves that even in the face of adversity, the human spirit, understanding and humanity prevails. It shows that humanity cannot and will not be lost even in the most dire of circumstances.

– Submitted by IAAP UN intern Jeannette Raymond

Part 21

HAITI Rebat: Update on Activities Rebuilding Haiti through the Global Kids Connect Project

The IAAP UN team continues to be committed to rebuilding Haiti. A previous issue of this Bulletin reported on ongoing activities of the IAAP UN team in post-earthquake Haiti up to that issue date. These included follow-up of students trained to help in the recovery, coalitions of agents involved

in the recovery efforts, and the development of cultural arts programming highly relevant to the indigenous culture. This article reports on recovery assistance activities since that time.

In the two years since the earthquake in Haiti, thousands of children are still suffering either directly from the loss of parents and homes or indirectly through fears of what happened and could recur. Similarly, in the aftermath of the tragic tsunami/earthquake in Japan, children in that country are also suffering. To offer comfort and to connect children in these countries and across the globe who experienced trauma, the Global Kids Connect Project continued its programming, under the leadership of founder and IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky with IAAP UN representative Wismick Jean Charles, a Haitian priest, and other partners.

Several events were organized involving psychosocial interventions for the children and training trainers, to create sustainability of the program. The intervention consists of four elements: (1) learning simple psychological techniques for stress reduction; (2) a history lesson about the various countries; (3) exchange of an object decorated by children; and (4) a cultural program (e.g. songs and dances from the various cultures). Two groups were trained: youth volunteers from a local organization in Haiti (who could carry out the program in various settings, like schools, camps or churches), and staff of a local hospital in New York.

The projects emerge out of ongoing work of the IAAP team in disaster risk reduction and recovery, including advocating at the UN about psychosocial issues, and dating back to a side event organized for a launch several years ago at UN headquarters in Geneva of the IASC Guidelines for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings. The specific programming builds on Dr. Kuriansky's work providing psychological first aide after many disasters (including 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the Asian tsunami, bombings in the Middle East, earthquakes in China and others) and her Clinical Toolbox for Cross-Cultural Counseling and Training, published in the book *Principles of Multicultural Counseling and Therapy* co-edited by Drs. Uwe Gielen, Juris Draguns & Jefferson Fish.

On the ground in Haiti: In early July, a team traveled to Haiti to implement the program. The team, who joined Father Wismick who was organizing the program in the field, consisted of Dr. Judy Kuriansky; GKCP member, Stand Up for Peace co-founder and international composer Russell Daisey; and students Rebecca Houran (Dr. Judy's summer intern from Smith College) and Tarah Midy (Dr. Judy's student at Columbia University Teachers College). A Japanese collaborator, Nozomi Terao, founder and Executive Director of HappyDoll Inc, joined for the workshop.

The events took place at St. Louis de Roi Church in Port-au-Prince, with the cooperation of Father Wismick and the Centre Bon Samaritan located in Haiti. The Good Samaritan Center is a ministry of hope involved in social services to improve living conditions, especially in poor rural communities.

Dr. Judy conducted a one-day training workshop where twelve volunteer youth from the Haiti Action for the United Nations came to the location a day before the workshop for the children. The youth were from Haitian Action for the United Nations (AHNU), a national non-profit NGO dedicated to enhancing the education of Haitian youth, promoting the UN system and its importance in the world, and facilitating more active participation and representation of Haiti in the UN, while being involved in the development of the Haitian people and the promotion of its culture around the world. Connections had been established through Dr. Judy's previous collaborations with the United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (UNA-DR).



The Global Kids Connect Project team with the youth volunteer trainers.

The next day, Dr. Judy led the trainers in a review of how to lead the workshop. The group then welcomed over 100 children (and parents) who came to the church for the event, held in a large outdoor space on the church grounds. The children who participated in the workshop were mainly between the ages of 8–12, and were part of the extended church community. The workshop consisted of the elements described above.





In the comfort object-exchange segment of the workshop, the children decorated a muslin cut-out of a human figure stuffed with cotton (for substance), designed to be gender-neutral (to appeal to both boys and girls). The Haitian children received the figures that had been previously made by children in Japan, and they were then provided with the form and various colored magic markers in order to decorate figures that were later brought to Japan and given to Japanese children.





A celebration at the end included an original song written in Creole about rebuilding Haiti, as well as commonly known children's songs sung in the local language (French and Creole) as well as the languages (English and Japanese) of other children involved in the Project in their respective country. These were led by **The Stand Up For Peace Project** co-founder Russell Daisey, who has created and performed peace charity events with Dr. Judy around the world (www.towersoflightsong.com).



Psychological Foundation: The project is based on several sound psychological principles: (1) Survivors of trauma feel better knowing they are not alone, and that others support and care about them; (2) Children need safety and comforting; (3) Comforting can be provide by “transitional objects” which represent the parental/maternal nurturing figure; (4) A stuffed toy that can be cuddled offers “contact comfort,” further giving the child a sense of security (e.g. teddy bears were sent to children post-9/11); (4) Stress reduction techniques help children deal with trauma at all levels related to the event and their life in general; (5) Children respond to recreational projects, including arts decorating as well as music, dance and play. The cultural aspects of the program are healing, bringing the children in touch with their roots as well as developing appreciation of other cultures.

Research: Data was collected about the impact of the training program on the trainers, and results are being analyzed. Preliminary results suggest that participation in the program was a significantly positive experience, in terms of learning simple, unique and immediately applicable approaches to

helping children, and feeling useful, needed and valuable in their country's recovery. The two students who were part of the GKCP team (Becky Houran and Tarah Midy) expressed great appreciation for on-the-ground first-hand experience about trauma recovery. "Knowing the children's pain and being able to do something to help them was a very powerful experience," said Houran. "It's not possible from just reading a textbook or hearing about it. Being there is invaluable as a rare opportunity for a student who wants to be a psychologist and help people." Midy, whose family is Haitian, said, "I cannot express how meaningful it is to be here, helping in my country."

The New York Connection: In early September, in preparation for the 10th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, the GKCP workshop and training was held at a local hospital in New York City. The New York children were included in the circle of caring since they were being affected by intense media attention to the terrorist attacks that had taken place 10 years before. Also, the New York City schools had been mandated to teach about the event. The Child and Family Institute Outpatient Department at St-Luke's Roosevelt hospital's Department of Psychiatry (where Dr Judy had done her internship) decided to integrate the GKCP and training in their annual Back-to-School event. In preparation, Dr. Judy gave a presentation to the hospital staff, and then held a training for the volunteers who would lead the workshops with the children.



Dr. Judy Kuriansky training St. Luke's-Roosevelt hospital staff.



St. Luke's hospital staff trained in the GKCP giving geography lesson to the children in the workshop, about the location of the U.S.A, Haiti and Japan.



IAAP UN rep and GKCP founder Dr. Judy Kuriansky with children and hospital staff trainees at the New York workshop.



IAAP UN rep Father Wismick (far right) with other team members and parents of the participating children at the New York workshop.

Another report in this Bulletin chronicles a subsequent stage of the project, implemented in Japan on the one-year anniversary of the tsunami-earthquake there.

The project is intended to expand to other countries, including China, that has also been stricken by devastating earthquakes. Plans are in development to include Afghanistan. IAAP members and other professionals are welcome to collaborate in their country.

– Submitted by IAAP UN representatives Judy Kuriansky and Wismick Jean Charles

Part 22

Recovery Efforts for Japan after the 3/11 devastating tsunamiearthquake

March 11, 2012 was the one year anniversary of the tragic tsunami/earthquake in Japan that left tens of thousands of people mourning loss of loved ones, homes and livelihood. At the one-year marker, the message is that we should not forget and should continue to offer support.

In that spirit, the UN held a major concert on 5 March 2012 in the impressive ECOSOC chamber with the theme of “Overcoming the Disaster: Gratitude from Japan to the World.” Presented by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and the Japan Foundation, it was titled, “The

Great East Japan Earthquake Commemoration Concert: Global Solidarity for People Affected by Disasters and Conflicts.” Many said it was the best musical concert they ever heard.

The concert was a symbol of Japan’s sincere gratitude to the global community for their support, noting that Japan is headed towards recovery strengthened by a new Kizuna (bond of friendship) with the international community. The concert was dedicated to the victims of disasters and conflicts around the globe, with Japan’s support and prayer for peace.



Japan concert performers.

The musical performances featured Ondekoza, a professional Japanese taiko drumming troupe, and some of Japan’s best contemporary musicians, and Wakumizu Kagura, a traditional folk performance group from the Tohoku region, affected by the disaster, where performances have resumed to soothe the lost souls and to provide a connection to home for those who had to evacuate.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon made a beautiful speech, saying that “No country or community should suffer what they are going through [and that] the UN and the world is behind Japan.” He surprised everyone by speaking some phrases in Japanese.

At the reception in the UN lobby, H.E. Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, graciously greeted the guests.



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the Japan Earthquake Commemoration Concert at the UN.

On the evening of 3/11, IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky was in Tokyo for a major memorial concert of prominent Japanese musicians held in the prestigious Yamaha Hall to hear the 9/11 healing anthem called "Towers of Light" that she co-wrote, in the premier performance of its Japanese translation (now called "Souls Become Stars"). The anthem was translated and performed by internationally acclaimed Japanese operatic soprano, Tomoko Shibata, who had also organized the concert, called "Songs for Hope." This was the fourth in the series Shibata had produced and performed, including in New York on the anniversary of 9/11 at the Annual 9/11 Japanese Floating Lantern ceremony and interfaith



At the reception for the UN concert, H.E. Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN with IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky.

memorial. The song was originally co-written, and composed, by international composer and pianist Russell Daisey, Dr Judy's partner in many international projects, including the Stand Up for Peace Project and the Global Kids Connect Project (GKCP). It was Daisey's term project when the assignment for students in Dr. Judy's class at Columbia University Teachers College post 9/11 was to do a project of healing.



At the "Songs for Hope" memorial concert in Tokyo on the anniversary of the Japan 3/11 tsunami/earthquake, pictured from left to right: Japanese cellist Hajime Mizoguchi; translator Ryoichi Hirose; anthem co-lyricists Russell Daisey and Judy Kuriansky; and Japanese soprano Tomoko Shibata.

The next morning, Dr. Judy led a mission to the earthquake zone, in partnership with a Japanese NPO, the Recovery Assistance Center of Miyagi, whose representatives she had met at the UN concert. The team made presentations at three schools (elementary and junior high levels) in their gymnasium auditoriums with hundreds of children. The program consisted of a performance by Japanese pop star Shinji Harada (often referred to as the “Beatles of Japan”), Dr. Judy leading the group in healing exercises, and a performance by opera star Tomoko Shibata accompanied by pianist Russell Daisey. Dr. Judy and Daisey have collaborated for many years with Harada in his Global Harmony peace charity symposia and concerts in Japan (Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki) and with Shibata for many memorial events for 9/11 and concerts for Japan.



Pictured standing from left to right: a school principal in Sendai, IAAP rep and team leader Judy Kuriansky, soprano Tomoko Shibata, Japanese pop star Shinji Harada and composer Russell Daisey. Seated: Go Osaka from the Recovery Assistance Center of Miyagi.

The healing techniques Dr. Judy presented were adaptations of those from her toolbox for psychological recovery, developed over years of work post-disaster all over the world, including with children after the Asian tsunami and earthquakes in Haiti and in China. The techniques focused on encouraging personal strength, and feeling connected and supported.



Junior high school students in Sendai attending the anniversary healing event.



Japanese pop star Shinji Harada performing at an elementary school in Miyagi.

Parents also attended the school presentations.



Parents attending the anniversary healing event for children at a Sendai school.

As an extension of the IAAP UN team field project in Haiti (the GKCP) with IAAP UN rep Father Wismick Jean Charles, children decorated cranes, the Japanese symbol of hope, which were made by the parents and children who came to the presentations. The cranes will be brought to Haiti, continuing the exchange of comfort between Japanese, Haitian and American children.



Students making cranes at a junior high school in Sendai, with IAAP rep Judy Kuriansky.

A special workshop was held at one of the junior high schools, with Dr Judy talking with students and teachers, teaching them the healing exercises.



Dr Judy leading a healing workshop for students and teachers at a junior high school in Sendai, the epicenter of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.





Students and teachers in a healing session with Dr. Judy, team member Russell Daisey and Japanese partner Go Osaka (in yellow shirt).

The team also visited a temporary housing residence. Three widows, who had lost their husbands in the disaster, had intensive conversations with Dr. Judy. After this, a large group of residents assembled and the team did the presentation of music and healing exercises. The residents were delighted with the experience.



Soprano Tomoko Shibata accompanied by pianist Russell Daisey, performing healing music for residents of a temporary housing in Sendai, Japan.



The team with residents of a temporary housing residence in Sendai.

Given the importance of sustained recovery and the value of international cooperation, Japanese psychologists and other colleagues are welcome to connect about this project and about Japan psychosocial recovery efforts. The Recovery Assistance Center of Miyagi is setting up programs for children, through the schools and new after-school programs of music, theatre, the arts and sports and psychosocial workshops. Collaboration and working together can make healing efforts for Japan effective and sustainable. Contact DrJudyK@aol.com.

– Submitted by **Judy Kuriansky**, United Nations representative for the International Association of Applied Psychology

Part 23

DPI/NGO Briefing: “The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Honouring the Heroes, Resisters and Survivors”

On 23 March 2012, the DPI/NGO briefing, held in the ECOSOC Chamber, addressed the topic of “The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Honouring the Heroes, Resisters, and Survivors.” This briefing topic on this day was selected to coincide with the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which is on 25 March 2012. The purpose of the event is to not only oppose slavery, but also to celebrate those who fought against this injustice to pursue human dignity.



Panel at the DPI/NGO tribute to Kiyotaka Akasaka (from left to right): Public Information Assistant Felipe Queipo; Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyotaka Akasaka; Chief of the NGO Relations Cluster in the UN Department of Public Information Maria-Luisa Chavez; and Chairman of the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference Charles Hitchcock.

Kiyotaka Akasaka, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information (DPI), warmly welcomed everyone and moderated the event. He explained that the Transatlantic Slave Trade was the largest forced migration recorded in history from the 16th to 19th century. Many estimated that 15 to 20 million Africans were possibly removed from their homelands and shipped in bondage to colonies to North and South America and West Indies. Those who survived this infamous middle passage across the Atlantic were sold for considerable profit into a life of slavery. “They were stripped of their names, their identities, their freedoms, and their human rights,” he said. “They were supposed to serve as a supply of unpaid labor, which generated enormous wealth for enterprises in America and Europe.” He also pointed out notable heroes, who fought against slavery, such as Harriet Tubman, the prominent face of the Underground Railroad.



DPI Information Officer Gail Bindley-Taylor Sainte reading Sylviane Diouf’s speech.

Since the first intended speaker, Sylviane Diouf, Information Officer in the NGO Relations Cluster in the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), Gail Bindley-Taylor Sainte, read Diouf’s message. “Africans have a long and distinguished history of heroism, resistance, and survival,” she said, “They started fighting the Transatlantic Slave Trade as soon as it began in Africa. The need for shackles, guns, ropes, chains, iron balls, and whips tells an eloquent story of continuous and violent struggle for the preservation of their freedom and integrity.” She went into further detail about how Africans defended themselves against slavery. One example was using their habitat as a safeguard, e.g. by building their houses in mazes to confuse attackers. Another example of resistance was riots on ships. She concluded that the millions of heroes, who suffered from slavery, “were creators of families, arts, cuisines, crafts, religions, aesthetics, and languages. Their impact on the modern world has been and continues to be extraordinary.”

The next speaker, Sasha Turner, Assistant Professor of history at Quinnipiac University, brought attention to women’s history and rights when it comes to slavery. She shed light on how British-Caribbean slaveholders monitored and interfered with enslaved women’s sexual habits and childbearing practices in hopes of securing greater conception rates and increases in the number of babies born and raised into slavery. Slaveholders arbitrarily paired enslaved women with men, built hospitals and delivery rooms. They also increased pregnant women’s food allowances, mitigated punishment, and altered women’s working responsibilities to protect unborn children. These “improvements” were new systems

used for domination to accomplish the slaveholders' goals. Unfortunately, these women had no control over their bodies and also no parental control over their children because they were taken away from them.

Rita Pemberton, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Dean of Student Affairs in the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of West Indies, described two significant and seemingly unrelated trends in contemporary society. On the one hand, at the administrative levels, Heritage enjoys a reappraisal as it has been revalued to revitalize the tourist industry. On the other hand, in response to the myriads of problems faced by African descended people in the Diaspora, there are continual efforts to 're-root' and ('re-route') themselves through a search for heroes and heroines from their ancestry." She concluded that we should "pay homage to all the victims of this human tragedy who should be seen as resistors fighting for survival and as heroes and heroines in their own right." She suggested that people can honor the efforts of those people "by remembering, by teaching, by writing and rewriting their histories, producing films, documentaries and novels, instilling pride in their ancestry by ensuring that young and old are fully informed of their experiences of their ancestors and of their struggles to make the world a better place for succeeding generations."

The final speaker was Herb Boyd, a journalist, activist and teacher who has authored or edited 23 books, including, most recently, *Civil Rights: Yesterday & Today*. He focused on two individuals: Olaudah Equiano and Phillis Wheatley. He explained that Olaudah Equiano wrote his autobiography, which gave a slave narrative, without the help of a ghostwriter. Since he was sold to different masters, it gave him the opportunity to travel extensively and experience the wealth of different cultures. Despite these benefits, his narrative was a petition against the brutalities and inhuman conditions of the Transatlantic Slave Trading system. He shared a story about Phillis Wheatley, a former slave who was the first African-American poet to have her work published. Both Olaudah and Phillis were captured in their youth, and established their place in African American literature. Boyd concluded that if both Olaudah and Phillis were



Quinnipiac University Assistant Professor of History Sasha Turner speaking on the panel.



University of West Indies Deputy Dean Rita Pemberton speaking on the panel.



Journalist, activist and teacher Herb Boyd speaking on the panel.

alive today, they “would be astounded to know that many instances of slave trade and trafficking humans still exists today. They would probably be petitioners and demand Congress to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.”

After the formal briefing, Chief of the NGO Relations Cluster of DPI, Maria-Luisa Chavez, led the tribute for Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, who is retiring from his position. She acknowledged him for his years as a champion of civil society and NGOs and recounted fond qualities and memories, especially when he gave a speech in Spanish because he was determined to reach out to students in their native language. Then, Chair of 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference Charles Hitchcock thanked Mr. Akasaka for his scholarly work in bringing civil society back to the basic tenants of the United Nations. He described his work with Akasaka on peace and development, and quoted him as once saying, “Peace is not something that politicians can alone create. Journalists and artists have a critical role as well.”

Four Chairs of annual DPI/NGO conferences expressed their sentiments towards Akasaka. Felix Dodds, Chair of the 64th annual DPI/NGO conference in Bonn Germany in 2011 on sustainable societies, thanked Mr. Akasaka for his contributions to sustainable development. Mary Norton, Chair of the 63rd Annual Conference in Melbourne, Australia in 2010 on global health, also expressed her appreciation and offered prayers that Mr. Akasaka will have “roof to the rain, tea besides the fire, laughter to cheer [him], those [he loves] near [him], and a sheltering angel, so that nothing can harm” him in the next stage of his life. Shamina de Gonzaga, Chair of the 61st Annual



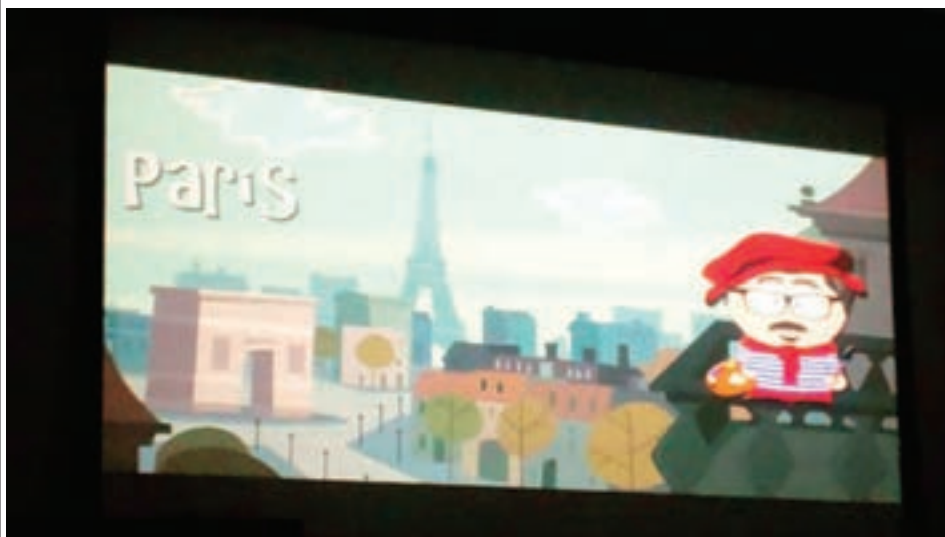
Monica Raffaele singing at the tribute to Kiyotaka Akasaka.

Conference on human rights held in 2008 in Paris France, reflected on the qualities of leadership that are important. She explained that we determine the quality of leaders by what they say and how they listen. She remembered her experience at the conference on human rights, explaining that even though the topic of human rights was not popular at the time and people hesitated talking about it, she found Akasaka to be “a fair and willing listener, who put himself out there even though he is not in the most comfortable space to be in.” Jeff Huffines, former Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, explained how he was struck by Mr. Akasaka’s spiritual qualities, which include his “gentleness, courtesy, unerring politeness, empathy, good humor, and courage.”

Maria-Luisa Chavez connected the audience to Mr. Akasaka’s NGO friends in Mexico via a live video conference. The DPI/NGO conference had taken place in Mexico City in 2009 under Akasaka’s helm. During the video conference, the Mexican representatives wished Mr. Akasaka happiness and joy, and hope that he will visit them in Mexico. One representative exclaimed, “Viva la Akasaka!” The next surprise was a serenade from opera singer Monica Raffaele.

After the performance, Maria-Luisa Chavez introduced a tribute video to Mr. Akasaka, thanking Felipe Queipo from the DPI/NGO Relations Cluster staff who spent endless hours producing the video with impressive skill and dedication. The video narrated Mr. Akasaka’s career, celebrating his accomplishments. From the time he arrived in New York in April 2007, he started building constructive partnerships

with the NGO community; he emphasized the importance of NGO involvement and addressed their informational needs and he participated in the Thursday briefings and attracted high-level speakers. Moreover, he embraced the idea of moving the annual DPI/NGO conference to different continents, which happened successfully for several years. The video chronicled these moves from country to country, making a humorous reference to South Park characters by turning Mr. Akasaka into a cartoon character, traveling to different parts of the world. For example, he ventured to Paris for a conference that revolved around human rights, and attracted NGOs from Western Europe. As a dedicated international civil servant, his commitment to building new NGO partnerships was inspiring. He was committed as a team builder and motivator. More importantly, he strongly advocated human rights and was a friend to all. On the next stop in his journey, Mr. Akasaka moved on to Mexico for a conference that revolved around the topic of peace, development, and disarmament (which really happened). The character was then shown traveling to Melbourne for the conference on Global Health and Advancing the MDGs, where he attracted NGOs in the Asia and Pacific community. On the next trip, to the conference on “Sustainable Societies, Responsive Citizens” held in Bonn, Germany, he demonstrated his leadership skills during a bomb scare. At the end of the tribute, he was wished the best in his future endeavors.



A South Park cartoon version of Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka traveling to Paris in the tribute video.

Clearly moved – and amused – by the tribute, Under-Secretary-General Akasaka thanked everyone for all the achievements during his five-year tenure, which he attributed to everyone’s efforts, not just his own. Because he started as a government official, he didn’t realize the importance of NGOs for a long time. At that time, the relationship between governments and NGOs was hostile. In 1997, when he was at a meeting before the Kyoto Conference on climate change, he spoke in front of thousands of representatives. After his presentation, a Japanese representative of Green Peace complained that the proposal isn’t good enough, and blamed the efforts of the Japanese government. Akasaka retorted “How dare you! You are a Japanese! How can you blame the Japanese government’s great efforts?” After this argument, he wondered why a Japanese would behave in such a way. Then, he realized that she was representing the interests of the world, not just her own country.

From the argument with this NGO representative, he realized that indeed, the Japanese government's efforts were not good enough. This experience brought him to the realization that governments and NGOs can work together and complement each other. He noted that even though he is retiring to a quieter life, he will still be engaged with the NGO community.

– Submitted by Alicia Cho, IAAP UN Intern

Part 24

Announcements and other selected activities of the IAAP UN representatives

IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D., invites all IAAP members and other professionals to submit proposals about books they would like to write, on topics related to the series title “Practical and Applied Psychology” (which is very broad, so it includes many possibilities for subject matter). Email DrJudyK@aol.com. Over the past year, she was involved in many UN activities, including meetings, advocacy and presentations, some of which are reported in this Bulletin. Among these many presentations, she gave a plenary speech about “International Interventions: Psychological Theory, Techniques and Tools” at the Institute for International and Cross-Cultural Psychology and gave the invited lecture at International Day for the Leo Club—interestingly, the youth group of the Lions Club—at St. Francis College. She has also been an expert commentator on psychological issues on many television and radio shows, including reporting about Psychology Day at the UN, the DPI/NGO conference and IAAP field projects (in Haiti and Africa) as well as her other international projects; of particular relevance, she has been interviewed on shows like Global Connections TV which airs on the United Nations TV network as well as mainstream TV, and on South-South News, hosted by noted UN expert Bill Miller. She is co-editor of a soon-to-be released book, “*Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World: Healing Ourselves and Our Planet*” which presents a unique mix of hard science and applied psychology perspectives. She will be presenting on a symposium at ICP2012 in Cape Town about “Doing Global Good: Psychologists at the United Nations Impact on International Issues and Invitation to all for Involvement” with additional panelists Drs. Florence Denmark and Neal Rubin and discussant, IAAP Past President Michael Frese; as well as giving a presentation with Uwe Gielen, Ph.D., about the newly released DVD “International Psychology: What Students Need to Know,” copies of which will be available at the ICP meeting. Her activities in advocacy and humanitarian projects in Haiti, Japan and Africa are described in articles in this Bulletin.

IAAP UN rep Walter Reichman, Ed.D., joined OrgVitality, an organizational psychology consulting firm, where he was named Vice President and Partner. He is a member of the Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology, and has made several presentations about humanitarian work psychology, and about IAAP activities at the United Nations, at the 2012 meeting of the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP). An expert on humanitarian work psychology and on poverty, he participated in the question session at the recent UN Commission on Social Development about poverty eradication and has submitted a paper (with IAAP rep Mary O’Neill Berry and SIOP UN rep John Scott) to the ECOSOC High Level Conference. He is co-author with IAAP rep Mary O’Neill Berry of a chapter on “The Evolution of I-O Psychology” in the newly released book “Humanitarian Work Psychology” published by

Palgrave Macmillan and has a chapter in preparation on the topic of women and work for a book being edited by IAAP rep Dr. Denmark, He is also editing a book for the SIOP Practice series on organizational psychology helping vulnerable people.

IAAP UN rep Mary O'Neill Berry, Ph.D., has just been asked to lead an Advocacy Task Force for the psychology NGOs accredited at the United Nations. This group will focus on more effectively and efficiently conducting advocacy activities at the UN, in particular, to follow up on the recent UN Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, and the Commission on Sustainable Development. In April 2012, she presented to panels at the meeting of Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) entitled "SIOP and the UN: Setting the Agenda" and on "IAAP and the United Nations: Past and Future." She was also on a panel titled "How Organizational Psychology Improves the Lives of the Vulnerable" where she made a presentation entitled "Organizational Psychology Aids Vulnerable Girls in Africa: A Model Program of Entrepreneurship and Life Skills Training – The Lesotho Girls Empowerment Programme." She is co-author (with IAAP UN rep Walter Reichman) of a chapter on "The Evolution of I-O Psychology" in the recently released book "Humanitarian Work Psychology," published by Palgrave Macmillan.

IAAP UN rep Martin Butler, Ph.D. was co-chair of the 2012 Psychology Day at the UN with APA UN rep Janet Sigal. He also convened the Taskforce on Human Trafficking for the NGO Committee on Migration and organized the IAAP-sponsored workshop for the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn Germany on "Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens," at which IAAP rep Judy Kuriansky moderated and spoke (all reported in more detail in this Bulletin). He also presented at the 69th Annual International Council of Psychologists Convention on his activities at the UN. In his ongoing involvement with Haiti relief, partnering with the Haitian Dominican Good Samaritan Association directed by Dr. Roger St. Louis, he collected ambulation devices, including wheelchairs and walkers, for the disabled in Haiti, with generous donation from IAAP and ICP UN rep Florence Denmark.

IAAP UN rep Florence Denmark, Ph.D., as the current President of IAAP Division 7 (Applied Gerontology), calls for nominations for President-Elect of the Division. The principal role of the President-Elect is to assist the President (Florence) in the administration of the Division between now and the 2014 International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) which will be held in Paris; at the end of ICP, the President-Elect would then become President of the Division. Upon election, the President-Elect will automatically become a member of the IAAP Board of Directors (BOD) and as such will be invited to attend the next meeting of the BOD in Cape Town in July 2012 at the forthcoming International Congress of Psychology. As Divisional President in 2014, responsibilities are (1) related to the 2018 ICAP in Paris: to deliver a Keynote Address as part of the Scientific Program of the 2018 ICAP, to recommend to the Scientific Program Committee the names of others who should be considered to deliver either a Keynote Address or organize an Invited Symposium, and to encourage Division members to organize a symposium or present a paper; and (2) to maintain the interest of present Divisional members over the four years 2014-2018, including writing brief articles for the IAAP Bulletin and encouraging Divisional members to do likewise. Please let me know if you are coming to Cape Town so that a meeting can be arranged for Division 7 (email: fdenmark@pace.edu).

Some recent activities of Dr. Denmark include giving an invited address on "Multiculturalism in the Classroom" for the Winter Roundtable at Teachers College, Columbia University on February 24, 2012, on the theme "Beyond Borders: Transforming Lives Through Traditions and Innovations".

At the Eastern Psychological Association meeting on March 3, 2012 in Pittsburgh, she gave the Virginia Staut Sexton lecture on Mentoring.

IAAP UN rep Father Wismick Jean-Charles received his Ph.D. from Fordham University after successfully defending his doctoral dissertation. He was appointed by the President of the Haiti Catholic Conference of Bishops to be Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Catholic University of Notre Dame (UNDH), in Port-au-Prince, Haiti (his native country), a post he started in May, 2012. UNDH is a prestigious University with excellent undergraduate and graduate programs. Six colleges (medicine, nursing, education, agriculture, administration, law, and education), disseminated throughout the country, prepare students to lead productive, rewarding and responsible lives and to effect change in Haiti. His mission in his new position is to provide resources required to support the highest level of excellence for faculty as they seek to prepare students for a complex Haiti and world. This will be accomplished through the development of academic policies and procedures, curriculum development, instructional programs, professional development and higher standards for faculty hiring. In this position, he will continue the IAAP projects ongoing in Haiti. He invites IAAP members and ICP attendees to contact him with any collaborations in these endeavors (email: wjeancharles@fordham.edu).

Some of his recent activities including presenting, with IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky, about “Cross-National Service: the Case of Haiti” outlining the IAAP projects in Haiti, at the 23rd Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research at Touro College in New York, November 20, 2011 (see the APA International Bulletin

http://www.itopwebsite.com/InternationalPsychology/Newsletter_files/IPB_Spring_2011.04.16.1.pdf). They will both present about the IAAP Haiti projects at a symposium at the American Psychological Association convention in August, 2012 in Orlando, Florida, USA.

The IAAP UN team welcomes a new Professional Affiliate, Janice L. Bloch. Janice is a highly experienced educator who has been an active advocate for ensuring sustainable access to mental health services to women and children worldwide, and particularly in pre and post-conflict zones, disaster areas and those living in impoverished and fragile conditions. A specialist in child autism, she has taught at a New York City school specializing in children with autism and serves on the event and planning committee for the National Autism Association, NY. At the UN, she was Vice-Chair of the United Nations NGO Commission on the Status of Women: 56—Women, Peace and Security. In the international arena, she is the Vice-President of Primary Exposure -Kenya, a newly formed 501(c)(3) organization that builds awareness of the life and death challenges of Albinism. As a certified writing therapist, she is the Founder and CEO of Happily Handwriting, whose mission is to help children of all abilities raise their voices through writing. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Cultural Anthropology. She has been very active in advocating at many UN Commissions with the IAAP team about the contributions of psychology to global issues.

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE CANTERBURY (NZ) EARTHQUAKES–PART 1

Neville M Blampied
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In the early hours of the morning of 4th September, 2010, residents of the Canterbury region in New Zealand's South Island, and its major city, Christchurch (regional population ~400,000), were woken by the noise and shaking of an earthquake. Earthquakes are not unfamiliar to us. NZ lies on the Pacific "ring of fire" and a major fault-line – the Alpine Fault – runs down the western side of the Island, marking where the Pacific tectonic plate grinds past the Australian plate. As the shaking grew in severity, most of us assumed that this was the long-predicted "big one" – an overdue release of seismic energy on the Alpine Fault. We soon learned, however, that we had experienced a 7.1 magnitude quake on a previously unknown fault lying under rural land about 30 kms west of the city.

Canterbury has been occupied by humans for about 700 years. The indigenous Maori used the swamps, where the modern city of Christchurch now stands, for food-gathering but it was not until European settlers arrived in 1850 that the swamps were drained and a city built. Christchurch retained many of its late 19th – early 20th C heritage buildings, constructed of stone and unreinforced masonry. Such buildings suffered extensive damage, and huge areas of the city were covered with liquefaction silt, as the vibration of the quake turned previously swampy soil to liquid. Despite the extensive damage, however, there were no deaths and only two serious injuries – truly remarkable given the severity of the earthquake.

The widespread reaction in the days afterward was that, first, we had been extremely lucky, and second, that we had discovered (or rediscovered) a new sense of community, as folk checked on neighbours, helped dig out the liquefaction, and assisted with the social and economic repair that quickly got underway. But this sense of community was soon to be tested to a new level. At 12.51pm on Tuesday, 22 February, 2011, a catastrophic 6.1 magnitude aftershock struck, at shallow depth, on another unknown fault, this time within 10kms of downtown, and with an orientation that funnelled energy into the centre. The vertical accelerations, at >2gravities and among the largest ever recorded for a modern earthquake, greatly exceeded the building code. The centre of the city was devastated, severe damage was widespread across the region, liquefaction was worse in depth and extent than in the September quake, more than 6000 people were injured, and 185 died. Among the dead was a leading clinical psychologist (and her client).

The city was without power, water, and sewage, although the telephone system continued to operate, as did emergency services and the main hospitals, despite damage. Roads were badly damaged, many bridges unusable. A state of emergency was declared, the central city area was cordoned off by the NZ armed forces, and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from all round NZ flew in. They were soon joined by teams from Australia, Singapore, Japan¹, the UK and USA,

¹When the devastating earthquake and tsunami struck Japan on 11th March, 2011, the Japanese USAR team returned to Japan. We were able to reciprocate their help, and sent a NZUSAR team to help with their much larger disaster.

and we remain profoundly grateful for that assistance, and other assistance by way of financial aid that has been offered from around the world.

Over the next days, weeks and months emergency welfare centers were set up across the city, homes and businesses throughout the city were checked for casualties and welfare needs, basic services restored, and some semblance of social and business life resumed. One remarkable story of volunteer response is the “Student Army”. Since all the city’s universities, polytechnics and schools were closed, a group of student leaders at the University of Canterbury set up a system through which student volunteers could be despatched to different parts of the city armed with shovels and wheelbarrows to help dig properties out from the liquefaction silt. At its peak several thousand Student Army helpers were organised daily, using the social media Facebook. Other volunteer groups were modelled on this, such as the “Farmy Army” which involved farmers from nearby rural communities. All told, more than 500,000 tonnes of silt has been removed from Christchurch since the earthquakes began. However, one year on and 10,000+ aftershocks later, the centre of the city remains cordoned off, almost all heritage buildings have been or will be demolished (including our iconic cathedrals), most high-rise buildings, major art venues, libraries, and sports facilities are closed and many are waiting for demolition, more than 6000 homes have been condemned, tens of thousands of homes are damaged but habitable, and large tracts of city land are deemed too dangerous to build on again.

What was the response of psychologists to this extreme experience? Among affected psychologists were clinical psychologists employed in the public health system (the Canterbury District Health Board, CDHB); clinical psychologists employed in private practice; some other private practitioners, mostly in the industrial-organizational area; educational psychologists serving the public school system, NZ Defence Force psychologists, and academic psychologists and their students, mostly at the University of Canterbury. All experienced some level of personal distress and disruption from the earthquake, including the destruction of homes and places of work. Nevertheless, within days most were back functioning in some professional role. In this first part of the account I will focus on clinical, industrial-organizational, and educational psychologists’ roles and responses. In the second part I will discuss the response of academics, especially their research.

For many organizations and the individuals within them, the initial September earthquake provided a rehearsal of the responses that were required on a much larger scale following 22nd February. The CDHB psychologists, following both quakes, provided professional psychological support to the Emergency Welfare Centres that were set up as refuges for displaced people. This provided advice and support to the emergency management personnel, helped to monitor and deal with growing stress and distress among such staff, and provided direct clinical services to individuals using the Emergency Centres, for instance by monitoring those with pre-existing mental health conditions who were experiencing exacerbation of their symptoms, and dealing with distress and anxiety arising from events such as continuing aftershocks, or the necessity of returning home. The professional challenges faced were much greater after the February quake, both because of the severity of the disaster and the fact that many of the mental health services lost access to their buildings and therefore to their professional records and resources. Despite continuing losses and difficulties two leaders of this group concluded “The magnitude of these events has also forced a ‘shake-up’ . . . of the boundaries and silos that people have traditionally worked in. This has led to improved communication between key agencies and more collaborative and flexible ways of working than was the case before September, 2010.” (Chambers & Henderson, 2011).

In the immediate aftermath of the February event, CDHB psychologists, private practitioners, and academics were involved in providing direct support to rescue workers, family members, and

survivors particularly at the two sites where the collapse of multi-story buildings resulted in many casualties (116 at one site alone). This support later extended to personnel of the Disaster Victim Identification team established at a nearby military base. It quickly became clear that different organizations had quite different levels of understanding of the benefits of and the capacity to engage with psychological input in such a situation. For instance, the NZ military has its own psychologists (Sutton & Fourie, 2011) and the NZ Police force, nationally and locally, has a long-standing system for calling on psychologists to help with staff distress and trauma. At the other extreme, it took some time to realise that the men operating the cranes and diggers that were being used to recover bodies from the wreckage (mostly employees of private contractors) had no support system. Some ingenuity was called on to arrange appropriate support for these indispensable workers. For many private practitioners their workplaces were damaged or inaccessible behind the city cordon, and so for a time a number volunteered to assist with counselling at the Canterbury Charity Hospital. This is a fully volunteer hospital which, prior to the February quake, provided day-surgery treatment for those not qualifying for public or private health services. Following the quake the hospital's management realised the need for counselling services, recruited volunteer counsellors, and found premises for the work. During 2011 it is estimated to have served approximately 1200 clients. Among the psychologists volunteering were the staff and trainee clinical psychologists of the University's Psychology Clinic who were unable to access their university facilities for three months.

The coordination of all this work was assisted by an informal weekly meeting attended by a diverse group of psychologists. This group (assisted by CDHB and academic psychologists) also arranged for public information statements to be distributed in various media, designed to help the public understand normal responses to stress and trauma, deal with anxiety, recognise when family members, especially children, needed help, and know where to locate help when it was needed. This was greatly assisted by material generously supplied by the NZ Psychological Society (NZPsS), the NZ College of Clinical Psychology, and the Australian Psychological Society. Later, the Association for Psychological Science made a useful document available (Bonnano, Brewin, Kaniasty, & La Greca, 2010). Underlying much of this public education was a desire to moderate references in the news media to "trauma" and "post-traumatic stress disorder" (PTSD), etc. Our fear was that this would set up an expectation that everyone was going to suffer PTSD or similar, and to some extent create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Industrial-Organizational psychologists, almost all of whom are private practitioners, tell a similar story (Black & McLean, 2011) of the need to provide educational resources for managers and workers that counteracted myths about "trauma", that facilitated coping, and that helped identify those who needed more specialist support and help. Among other communication channels, podcasts on company intranets were used to disseminate such information. These authors also discussed "Community Divergence" which occurred in a number of contexts, but in particular reflected that the most seriously affected parts of the city were the centre and the east, and the east is industrial and working-class, while professionals and managers tended to live in western suburbs that were not as badly affected. This posed a challenge for management and leadership in some organizations. Equally, however, phone or text messages from managers checking on workers' welfare and situations, similar mutual contacts among employees, and rapid organization of work, such as clearing up, rescuing equipment, and helping with business relocation, all helped with personal recovery and resilience.

In NZ, Educational (School) Psychologists are employed by the government Ministry of Education, and they provide services from pre-school to high school levels. Schools, however, are autonomous

entities, each with its own Board of Trustees, and a Principal (as CEO and professional leader of the teaching staff). It is much to the credit of Christchurch schools that no school pupils or staff were killed or seriously injured in the February earthquake, and the general experience of parents after they had fought their way through gridlocked traffic and damaged streets to pick up their children was to find them in well-organised class groups waiting in relative calm on the school's open spaces – notwithstanding constant and often major aftershocks. After the September earthquake schools were closed for only a short time, but from February onwards, schools were closed for weeks or more, some schools were forced to relocate, and others had to shift their daily schedule so that two schools could use the same facilities, one in the morning the other in the afternoon. So, in addition to the disruption of life that everyone experienced, many pupils and teachers also faced dealing with unfamiliar places and routines. Educational Psychologists worked within a Ministry-devised psychosocial support framework described as Respond, Recover, Renew (Brown, 2011). Again, provision of information through websites and face-to-face presentations was a key task. While deeply cognizant of safety issues, schools were encouraged to open as soon as possible, recognizing that getting back to familiar routines and social relationships was very important for child and family wellbeing. An Education Welfare Response Team was formed to provide more specialist help to school staff and students. The most seriously affected schools had their own team while other schools worked through liaison staff. As was the case with CDHB psychologists, educational psychologists typically worked in multi-disciplinary teams, and this seems to have been a positive experience (Gilmore & Larson, 2011).

In part 2, I will discuss the response to the earthquake of the academic community, and also say more about how psychologists' organizations, especially NZPsS, have engaged with the aftermath. Some of this research will be presented at the International Congress of Psychology, Cape Town, July, 2012.

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The Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology: Moving Toward the Creation of a Caribbean Psychology Organisation

The 2011 Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology (CRCP2011) was held in the Bahamas from November 15-18, 2011. It was hosted by the Bahamas Psychological Association, under the auspices of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), and the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP). The Conference Organizing Committee was chaired by Dr. Ava D. Thompson (College of the Bahamas) and the Scientific Committee was chaired by Dr. Ishtar O. Govia (University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica).

CRCP 2011 was organized to promote the growth of psychology in the Caribbean, strengthen regional bonds and national organisations, and support Caribbean psychology's increased engagement with the global community of psychologists. The conference theme was "Psychological Science and Well-Being: Building Bridges for Tomorrow."



Volunteers at the CRCP2011 registration desk.

The conference addressed issues of paramount importance to the Caribbean community of psychologists as they strive to attend to local needs and at the same time to connect with the global psychological community. These issues included the following topics: Caribbean Culture and Psychology, Capacity Building in the Caribbean Region, Education and training, Mental Health and Development, research Methodologies, Psychology in the Public Interest.

The conference was attended by over 350 persons, including about 100 students. The conference participants came from 37 countries. A total of 20 Nations/territories in the Caribbean were represented (Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Cuba, Dominica, French Guyana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands). Other participants came from the Americas (North, Central, and South), overseas (Europe, Africa, and Asia), and included the representatives of the sponsoring organisations. IAAP was formally represented by three Officers: José Maria Peiró (President), Janel Gauthier (Secretary-General) and Elizabeth Nair (Treasurer). All of them had been invited to speak at the CRCP 2011. Invited speakers also included four members of the IAAP Board of Directors: Rubén Ardila, John Berry, Saths Cooper, and Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı.



The CRCP2011 Opening Reception. From left to right: Prof. Rainer K. Silbereisen, President of the International Union of Psychological Science, Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, Minister of Health of The Bahamas, and Dr. Saths Cooper, President of the 2012 International Congress of Psychology (also a member of the IAAP Board of Directors).

Overall, there were 12 plenary presentations, 24 paper sessions with 105 papers, 17 poster sessions with 100 posters, 19 roundtables, and numerous networking meetings, capacity-building and

pre-conference workshops, community outreach activities (including public lectures), as well as social and cultural events.

Because the goal of the conference was to engage as many Caribbean psychologists as possible and to enhance psychology within the region, the choice was made to have a small number of parallel sessions so that audience size would allow more of a shared experience. In addition, the invited speakers were asked to speak for about 10 minutes as one of four in a panel organised around a particular theme. They were also encouraged to be available throughout the conference to be active participants in other sessions and to engage in informal discussions with the Caribbean participants. This plan succeeded with many participants actively involved in networking with colleagues from many countries.

At the end of the conference delegates signed the *Nassau Declaration*, in which they made a commitment to form a Caribbean Psychology Organisation to promote the national and regional development of psychology as a science and practice. The Steering Committee, formed to take this commitment forward, held its first meeting at the end of the conference. As an interim measure, the CRCP2011 Conference Organising Committee is coordinating post-conference activities to ensure that the Caribbean Regional Organisation of Psychology will move forward from vision to reality. The organization will significantly enhance the capacity of psychologists in the region to use psychological science to improve the well-being of the Caribbean people.

Regional conferences of psychology are held every other year in a region of the world where psychology has potential for development. I have had the privilege to attend several of them. In my view, the CRCP2011 was by far the most regionally encompassing conference ever held. Furthermore, the level of enthusiasm and engagement of all present was without precedent.

At this juncture, Caribbean psychologists are poised to take their place on the world stage of psychology. Increased participation in international activities by national Caribbean psychology associations and the proposed regional body is expected.

For news and information concerning the movement toward a regional psychology organisation in the Caribbean, please visit the CRCP2011 website under its full name: <http://www.caribbeanpsychology.org>.

A more comprehensive report on the CRCP2011 is in preparation. Like all previous RCP reports, it will be published in the *International Journal of Psychology*.

The next Regional Conference of Psychology will be held in Uganda toward the end of 2013. It will be hosted by the Uganda Society of Applied Psychologists, under the auspices of IAAP, in collaboration with IUPsyS and IACCP.

Janel Gauthier, Ph.D., Secretary-General, IAAP

A Note on the Interamerican Psychological Society (SIP)

One of the largest and more active associations in the field of international psychology is, without a doubt, the Interamerican Psychological Society (Sociedad Interamericana de Psicología [SIP]). Here I will describe the Society and some of its activities.

SIP is an important international psychological association with more than half a century of active and successful life. It was founded in Mexico in 1951, and it is in very good health after more than a half century of growing activity. The first meeting took place in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) in 1953, and it was then consolidated at Congresses that followed. The second meeting took place in Mexico, in 1954.

SIP was created to establish and to enhance relations in the field of psychology among researchers and professionals working in the various countries of the American continent. Though in these countries there were very different scientific and cultural traditions, a large number of those professionals discovered that they maintained a similar interest in many social problems. While they were employing a variety of conceptual media and technologies, they were inspired by a common sense of professional and social responsibility.

In the mid-1950's, different groups of psychologists felt that the time was ripe for a new arena, at which researchers and applied psychologists both of North and South America, Central America and the Caribbean could meet and join forces to strengthen the field. They created a collaborative network that allowed them to have common forums for discussion, cooperation and study. SIP sponsors Congresses of Psychology at regular intervals (every two years—in odd years). These conferences are attended by thousands of psychologists and combine presentations dealing with general topics with presentations focusing on regional or local issues. SIP sponsors Regional Interamerican Congresses which are held every two years—in even years. The objective of the regional congresses is to promote regional development and to facilitate the access and participation of those people who cannot attend the Interamerican Congresses. Great attention is also devoted to methodological and technical questions and to the specialized training of professionals as a means to improve the life conditions of people in their countries. Another important result has been the growing cooperation and friendships that have been created among its members.

The latest congresses have been very successful and also very large ones indeed: the 33rd Congress took place in Medellin (Colombia) in 2011; previously, the society had met in Guatemala (2009), in Mexico (2007), and in Buenos Aires (2005). The next Interamerican Congress will be held in Brasilia (Brazil) in 2013. The cultural plurality of these meetings has been openly acknowledged by its executive board, and as a result, four languages are now admitted as official in their sessions: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. In recent times, some regional congresses have also been organized to deal with more specific or local issues.

A large part of the success of these congresses has been due to the participation of a great number of well-known personalities and highly regarded figures from the psychology scene. In many cases, they belong not only to the various American countries, but also to different countries from all over the world. Let me mention here the very notable figures of some late authors, such as Rogelio Diaz Guerrero (Mexico), Guillermo Dá (Mexico), Jose Miguel Salazar (Venezuela), Fernanda Monasterio (Argentina - Spain), among others. Many other distinguished researchers have contributed to the successful life of the society. Among them are people from different American

countries, such as Wayne Holtzmann and Otto Klineberg from the USA, Aroldo Rodrigues, Maria Regina Maluf, and Arrigo Angelini from Brazil, Isabel Reyes Laguna, Susan Pick and Rolando Diaz-Loving (Mexico), Maritza Montero (Venezuela), Reynaldo Alarcon and Cecilia Thorne (Perú), or Rubén Ardila and Henry Castillo (Colombia), to mention only a few names here.

SIP has organized itself geographically, and it has distributed its many hundreds of members in working groups, which deal with a variety of topics such as Ethics and Professional Deontology, Community Psychology, Violence, Educational Psychology, Health, Environment, Poverty, Gender Psychology, and the History of Psychology, among others.

In addition to the congresses already mentioned, it publishes an important journal, *The Interamerican Journal of Psychology*, which is valued internationally (<http://www.psicorip.org>). Also, it has the *Interamerican Psychology. SIP Newsletter* which has useful information for all its members. It has also gathered interesting information about the problems of professional psychology in members' countries in various reports (see, for instance, M. Alonso and A. Eagly, eds. "Psychology in the Americas").

SIP has been very effective in providing information and personal contacts to the many groups of professionals and researchers working on topics of social relevance for the Latin American societies, and it has provided them with instruments, information and resources that have enhanced the capabilities of their research groups.

SIP has also contributed to the creation of a common arena at which professionals with different traditions and in different schools have met and have compared their respective techniques, evaluated their own efficacy and, as a result, a true advancement of science has taken place.

To conclude, I would like to point out that a very distinguished SIP member, Prof. Rubén Ardila (Colombia), has recently been elected President-Elect of IAAP's Division 18—History of Applied Psychology. This election gives new strength to the Division and to our Society. This is an example, among others, of the multiple connections that SIP maintains, through its many members, with other international psychology organizations. SIP is at present a society taking part in IUPsyS meetings and is also attending other international forums. International psychology in general, and Latin American psychology in particular, are largely indebted to SIP's activities and work.

More information about SIP can be found on the web site: <http://www.sipsych.org/>.

Helio Carpintero, President of Division 18, History of Applied Psychology

Toward Understanding Violent Islam

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Introduction

While there is violence in most parts of the world, there are parts that are more violent than others. Can our current understanding of cultural psychological differences provide some clues about this difference? In this essay I will examine violence in cross-cultural perspective and suggest how to de-escalate violence with Islam.

Consider what appears in our newspapers; there are items about Palestine (Jews vs. Muslims), the Balkans (Orthodox Serbians vs. Catholic Croats, Orthodox Serbians vs. Bosnian and Albanian Muslims), Kashmir (Muslims vs. Hindus), Sudan (Muslims vs. Christians and animists), Nigeria (Muslims vs. Christians), Iran, Iraq and Pakistan (Shiah vs. Sunni), Indonesia (Muslims vs. Christians), Chechnya and the Philippines (Muslim insurrection).

And let us not forget the terrorism in America, Indonesia, Britain, and Spain. In 2009, an American Muslim psychiatrist gunned down several of his fellow soldiers in *the name of his religion*; a new immigrant from Pakistan tried to set off a car bomb in New York's Time Square. In Iraq and Pakistan, Sunnis and Shiah regularly blow up the mosques of the other sect. This list could be extended.

Most conflicts appear related to fundamentalist religion, especially aspects of Islam. Yet most Muslims oppose violence (Gabriel, 2006), and their very way of greeting each other, "Peace be with you," suggests that they would like peace.

Islam is enormously heterogeneous (Allawi, 2009; Esposito, 2003; Triandis, 2009b). For example, the Egyptian Imam accepted suicide bombings while the Imam in Saudi Arabia condemned them (Esposito, 2003). In the 1950s Islam was more modern than in the 1970s (Allawi, 2009). According to Ali Allawi, a historian of Islamic intellectual life, the transformational event was the Arab-Israeli war of 1967. The loss of the war resulted in asking if "more modernity" or "more Islam" was the right answer for the future and "more Islam" won.

Islam ranges from al-Qaeda to mystical Sufism. i.e., from extreme violence to no violence. The overwhelming Muslim majority is against violence (Gabriel, 2006) but is intimidated by the few who advocate jihad. The ferocity of the war between the Shiah and Sunni factions is notable. Triandis (2009b) quotes some Sunnis who say that the Shiah are "infidels" and vice versa. Such statements indicate extreme cognitive simplicity, dogmatism, and a black or white cognitive style (Rokeach, 1960).

The Shiah-Sunni conflict, according to Gonzalez (2009), can be understood by three factors:

- (1) The Middle East can be characterized as a set of tribal societies, where charismatic leaders, sometimes proclaiming that they are a Messiah, rule. They often harbor revenge tendencies toward other in-groups. Violence is endemic, and reflects old grudges, unresolved previous conflicts, and prejudices. There is extreme loyalty to the in-group with rejection of the out-group. Many individuals only have one trade: "fighting." The conflict starts because the leaders wish to have more power, but they make it legitimate in the eyes of their followers by casting it as a difference of religious dogma.
- (2) There are no powerful states that can impose law-and-order on the previously mentioned fighting. As Pinker (2011) has found, a powerful state is one of the major ways that can reduce violence.
- (2) In the Middle East the animosities of the war-lords are increased by the support they are receiving from powerful states, going back 2500 years, to the conflict between Persia and the Roman Empire, which changed to the conflict between Iran (Shiah) and Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon (Sunni). The Shiah-Sunni conflict started in the 7th Century as a war in Iraq over the succession to the leadership of the Prophet Mohammad, and has continued in various forms ever since.

What factors can account for so much violence in parts of Islam? In this essay the general picture about violence, as described by Pinker (2011), will provide the background, then more specific factors related to culture will be examined. Finally, the cultures of Islam will be examined in relation to the previous discussion.

The author's values are based on an examination of values around the world. In almost all cultures people value (1) health (both physical and mental), (2) happiness, (3) longevity, and (4) the non-destruction of the environment (Triandis, 2009b). Peace is consistent with these four criteria, while violence works against every one of them.

In Worldwide Perspective Violence is Declining

Pinker (2011) presents an impressive data-set that indicates that violence is declining. In the past 10,000 years, as we moved from hunters and gatherers to information societies, violence has decreased on many fronts. Over the centuries, there is less violence toward minorities, women, children, homosexuals, and animals. Non-state societies, such as hunters and gatherers, average 524 homicides per 100,000 per year. In modern societies this statistic is close to 1/100,000/year. Pinker credits powerful states that are concerned with law-and-order, increases in commerce, the feminization of the population (males age 15–30 commit most homicides; societies that abort female babies have more violence than those that give equal rights to women), the expanding circle (paying attention to the welfare of those beyond the family, own village, own country to events around the world; feeling close to diverse others and feeling guilty when one hurts others; increased literacy, urbanization, mobility, access to the mass media), and the increased use of reason (less superstition, less use of fantasies, more concern with reality; emphasis on human rights); and there is now more empathy, more self-control, more use of a moral sense; respect for others, especially for women by men.

Pinker shows that there is more violence in poor countries, among the lower social classes, and in segments of the population that are impolite. For example, the average homicide rate in the world is about 6/100,000/year, but in Japan, where politeness is very important, it is 2.2/100,000/year.

Religions were involved in violence. The Bible describes 1.2 million deaths. About 1 million people were killed between 1095 and 1208, when the Crusaders attacked the Muslims. This was, when taking into account the number of people on earth at the time, as lethal as the Nazi holocaust. The inquisition killed 350,000 people. The Wars of Religion in the 17th Century killed 6 million. Taking into account the size of the population at that time the number of deaths was proportionally as high in the 17th century as in the 20th, with its two World Wars. These were the two most violent periods in human history. Allawi (2009) points out that such massive violence has never occurred in Islam. However, currently there is more violence in Islam than in the West.

The jihadists of Islam present a strong contrast to the reduced violence described by Pinker. Mark Gabriel (2006), an Egyptian with a doctorate in Islamic studies from Cairo who lives in the USA, describes the terrorist mind as one of extreme cognitive simplicity, prejudice, and opposition to every peaceful plan around the world. The U.N. Declaration of Human Rights is “un-Islamic” according to bin-Laden, because it considers all religions as equally valid. Only Islam, of the specific sect of the jihadist, is valid. The jihadists wish to impose Shariah law on the whole world, and nothing short of that will satisfy them.

The intellectual debates between the jihadists and most Muslims, as discussed by Gabriel, contrast sharply with the debates in the West. There is no doubt that Allah exists. He is totally

anthropomorphic. But such debates as “Is God dead?” (Friedrich Nietzsche) are rare in Islam, which is based on human-made phantasies about non-existing entities such as Allah, devils, angels, and paradise (Triandis, 2009b). The highest value is conquest of lands and the imposition of Shariah law. Once this is achieved paradise will be on earth. It is most unfortunate that such unsophisticated thinking is causing so much violence.

The perspective of the majority in Islam, as discussed by Lewis (2003) and Esposito (2003), is entirely devoid of multiculturalism, i.e. it is totally Islamocentric. However, there are some exceptions, such as Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia, Mohammad Katami in Iran, and Aburrahman Wahid in Indonesia, who advocated democracy, pluralism and tolerance for other cultures (for details see Esposito, 2003).

Islam uses the aforementioned constructs (Allah, devils, angels, and paradise), to motivate naïve Muslims to commit violent acts, including suicide. This system has worked well from the beginning of Islam since it has helped Islam to subjugate North Africa, Spain, the Balkans, and other parts of the world. A model for this system was provided by the Prophet Muhammad himself in the battle of Badr (in 624 CE), when some 300 of his followers won a battle against some 900 Meccans. He told his followers that a thousand angels would come to their aid during the battle, and if they fight well they will go to paradise but if they do not they will go to hell. It worked! One can assume that a miracle was involved, but we know from studies by industrial engineers that it is possible to triple the productivity of workers with effective motivation (see Triandis 2009b for more details).

Culture and Violence

Contemporary cross-cultural psychology (Kitayama & Cohen, 2007, Markus & Kitayama, 1991; Triandis, 1989, 1994, 1995, 2009a, 2009b, Triandis & Gelfand, 2012) emphasizes the contrast between collectivist and individualist cultures. Hundreds of publications have used this contrast. However, three other dimensions have also proven important:

- Cultural simplicity (as found among hunters and gatherers) vs. cultural complexity (as found in information societies) (Chick, 1997).
- Cultural tightness vs. cultural looseness (Gelfand, et al, 2011; Pelto, 1968; Triandis, 1994).
- Vertical (much hierarchy) vs. Horizontal (less hierarchy) cultures.

There are many kinds of collectivism (C) and individualism (I) the most important being the vertical (V) vs. horizontal (H) varieties (Shavitt, Torelli, & Riemer, 2011; Triandis, 1995; Triandis & Gelfand, 1998).

The correlates of simplicity-complexity are primarily ecological (Triandis 2009a). Especially important is the size of the population settlement. Simple cultures consist of bands of 50 to 200 individuals, while complex societies have millions of members. The death rates in Pinker’s (2011) report in simple cultures are 13.4% per year, while in the complex cultures they are 2.7%.

It is reasonable to assume that cognitive simplicity and cultural simplicity are related. In the case of violence, revenge is a good example of cognitive simplicity. Another example is the thought “those who belong to group X must be killed.” The history of the Shiah-Sunni conflict, described by Gonzalez (2009), is replete with such thinking.

Gelfand et al (2011) found that tightness is correlated with population density, scarcity of resources, terrorism, natural disasters, disease, great religiosity, autocracy, close monitoring of social behavior,

many prohibitions, and censorship. Peltó (1968) used the legitimate use of force as one characteristic of tight cultures. While Pinker does not discuss tightness-looseness it is safe to assume that tightness, such as found in the Taliban, is associated with more violence than looseness, as found in rural Thailand.

The different kinds of collectivism and individualism result in four kinds of societies: Vertical Collectivist (VC), Horizontal Collectivist (HC), Vertical Individualist (VI), and Horizontal Individualist (HI). The VC pattern is found in most traditional societies, such as rural China or India. The major value is conformity to the authorities. Bond and Smith (1996) found more conformity in collectivist cultures, as measured by the Asch paradigm, than in individualist cultures. Domestic violence is higher in collectivist cultures (e.g., Egypt, 78%) than in individualist cultures (e.g., New Zealand, 1%). Domestic violence is against the law in Western Europe (in 84 % of the countries), but not so frequently in the Arab countries where it is against the law only in 25% of them. Violence tends to be high in collectivist societies, primarily because these societies are poor, and poverty is related to violence (Pinker, 2011). The value of life is proportional to the education of the population of the society. In more literate societies there is less violence than in the less literate, because more educated individuals are more valuable.

The HC pattern is found in the Israeli kibbutz. The major value is cooperation. Violence is generally low in such societies. The VI pattern is found in academia and major corporations, where achievement and competition are the important values. Competition often results in violence so that these cultures are moderately violent. The HI pattern is found in Scandinavia, Australia, and New Zealand where the major value is the *uniqueness* of the individual (Triandis and Gelfand, 1998, 2012). There is very little violence in such societies.

Globalization tends to shift cultures from VC to HI. Violence is high in VC cultures but lower in VI, HC and HI cultures in that order. Thus it appears that societies where hierarchy is very important are more violent than societies where it is relatively unimportant. In Islam the hierarchy is God-Man, and it is central to the religion.

Is the Culture of Islam more violent than other Cultures?

Gregory Davis (2006) argues that Islam is a military-political world view. He claims that the “sacred” books of Islam present the “House of Islam” (the believers) and the “House of War” (the non-believers), and it is the obligation of all believers to fight the non-believers until they submit to Allah, and adopt Shariah law.

Davis’ book is scholarly, but he pays too much attention to the “sacred” texts. It is probable that 99 percent of Muslims go about their everyday business without thinking of the “sacred” texts, and feeling the obligation to establish Shariah law throughout the world. Consider the case of the Christians. Their “sacred” texts tell that it is easier for a poor rather than a rich person to enter paradise (Mark 10,25). How many Christians *try* to be poor? In fact, some Christians believe that if one is rich that is a clue that one has been chosen by God to go to paradise!

In short, religions provide a complex set of stimuli, and believers sample *only* some of them. But there may be one percent of Muslims who do sample the violent aspects of the “sacred” books.

Davis claims that the blessed in Islam are those who use power to make the law of Allah dominant. He believes that National Socialism and Communism were the major threats to the United States in the past and Islam is now. The one percent that takes the “sacred” texts seriously is a threat, but most Muslims probably do not take them seriously. Davis also states that it was a mistake to oppose the Soviets in Afghanistan. We would have been much better off if they had occupied Afghanistan.

In any case, the sacred texts of Islam are consistent with the “Manual for the Raid” that was found in the luggage of Mohammed Atta, the chief terrorist of the 9/11/01 events, as reported in the *New York Times*. This manual stated that the 9/11/01 events were “God’s work.” Atta was doing “God’s work” as defined in the Islamic “sacred” texts. Thus, the key issue for us is to tell the difference between the probable ninety-nine percent of Muslims who are not terrorists and the one percent who are.

Self-Deception

Humans have a strong tendency toward self-deception (Triandis, 2009b). Some humans use more self-deceptions than others, and we can expect that those who use many self-deceptions will be part of the 1 percent and may engage in *jihad*. Self-deception occurs when humans use their hopes, needs, desires, ideology, theory, prejudices, habits, stereotypes, sacred values and other psychological processes to *construct* the way we see the world (Triandis, 2009b). The insight that we have self-deceptions when we use psychological processes to construct the way we see the world, goes back to the Buddha, about 2500 years ago, who said : “Where self is, truth is not; where truth is, self is not.” The belief that shariah law will become universal is a clear self-deception.

Self-deceptions tend to be cognitively simple. Triandis (2009b) examined over one hundred historical self-deceptions and found that most of them were cognitively simple. For example, when the French Revolution started, with the fall of the Bastille, the King of France, Louis XVI, wrote one word in his diary: “Nothing.” Of course, it was consistent with his hopes, needs, and desires that nothing happened, but it is amazing that the initiation of one of the greatest events of world history was seen so simply as something deserving no comment.

Triandis (2009b) attempted to present the world without self-deceptions. He argued that we humans are products of random evolutionary processes in a vast universe, and we should try to become cozy on this planet by helping as many people as possible, the whole of humanity if possible, to reach good health, happiness, longevity and the non-destruction of the environment. This view condemns violence, but the 1 percent glorify it.

Factors that Increase Violence

Some people join *jihad* because of personal factors. For example, the BBC (on 9/13/11) carried a report about two brothers from Pakistan. The younger brother decided to join the *jihad* to do Allah’s work, but the older brother, who was the head of the family, objected. The older brother was able to go to the training camp of the younger brother and convince him to return home, with the argument that their mother was very sick and wanted to see him. The older brother attributed the decision of the younger brother to join the *jihad* to the fact that he was not a good student in school and had failed in business. In short, the *jihad* was an escape from reality. He said: “We are all good Muslims, doing our prayers, but *jihad* is extremist.”

Sacred values are especially important in inspiring *jihadists* (Ginges, Atran, Sachdeva, and Medin, 2011). When such values are activated people are likely to buy into a cause that glorifies self-sacrificing violence for “the greater good.”

Bashiriyeh (2011), found most violence in Islamic countries, less in mid-Africa, even less in East Europe, a middle amount of violence was found in the USA, considerably less in New Zealand and most of Europe; minimal violence was found in Scandinavia. This agrees with the hypothesis, that VC to HI cultures reflect a slope of decreasing violence across cultures. Generally countries that were collectivist and high in hierarchy had more violence than countries that were individualist

and high in equality. There was also less homicide in wealthy than in poor countries; the correlation was .36 (Pinker, 2011).

In the Context of Declining Violence Worldwide Islam is an Exception

What factors might account for this exception? Islam means submission. That is cognitively simple, and may predispose the believers to cognitively simple world views. Cognitive simplicity is the major attribute of fundamentalism (Triandis, 2009b).

Another factor that may increase violence in Islam is polygamy. When some men have four wives, some others will have no wives. Males are more aggressive than females (Pinker, 2011), especially those age 15–30. When their marital prospects are blocked, *jihad* may be very attractive.

Empirical research shows that hot periods of the year account for more violence than cool periods (Pinker, 2011). Many Muslims live in the hot parts of the world, so that is one more factor that may account for the high rates of violence. Finally, emphasis on Human Rights is related to low violence, but, as discussed above, many Muslims reject the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Allawi (2009) says that the Declaration includes the point that people should enter or leave a religion completely freely. But that is un-Islamic, because leaving Islam is “apostasy” and is punished by death. In short, the Declaration includes elements that do not consider the essential aspects of the Islamic viewpoint.

Another factor is the importance that Islam gives to conquest, a simple idea. When asked to identify the best period of Islam many Muslims mention the period when they expanded into North Africa, Spain and the Balkans (Gabriel, 2006; Triandis, 2009b). That was defined as “the Golden Period.” Yet that was an extraordinary violent period in Islam (Gabriel, 2006). For example the immediate successor of Muhammad, Abu-Bakr, killed 84,000 Muslims because they refused to pay the 10 percent tax, as required by Islam. By today’s standards, this “Rightly Guided Caliph” (as he is called by Muslims) was a war criminal who caused genocide.

Another clue comes from the research of Ginges, Hansen, & Norenzayan (*Psychological Science*, 20, 224–230). They found that individuals who went to the mosque very regularly were more likely to approve of suicide attacks than those who prayed mostly at home. It maybe that in mosques they encounter more fundamentalist belief systems but it may also be aspects of their personalities. We might eventually develop both demographic and personality tests predicting violence.

Still another clue is provided by a study published in *Psychological Science*, 18, 204–207. People who read in the Bible that God sanctions aggression, were more aggressive than those in a control group. The authors concluded that “scriptural violence sanctioned by God can increase aggression, especially among believers” (p. 204).

In sum, the more religious, cognitively simple individuals are more likely to be in the one percent than in the ninety-nine percent group, and those who have many cognitively simple self-deceptions and are exposed to the sacred texts that advocate violence and frequently attend religious services may be more violent.

The Positive Aspects of Religion

Religion provides experiences that people find invaluable. People might have mystical experiences that make them feel sure that something “real” exists “in heaven.” But such experiences can be created with electrical stimulation of the brain. Newberg, D’Aquili, & Rause, (2001) used single photon emission computerized tomography of the brain during the meditation of their patients, and

found that the boundary between the brain areas that are activated when “self” and “not self” are perceived becomes blurred during meditation. So, the individual sees the self immersed in the infinite. The same measurements were taken during intense prayer. The area of the brain that is involved in the weakening of the self-not-self boundary is the area which, when injured, results in the patient not being able to lie down in bed, because the patient does not know where the body ends and the bed begins.

Rhythm is important in religion and rituals, and of course also in music and dance. Animals also have rituals, so that rituals have deep evolutionary roots. In animals, rituals permit communication, and recognition that the other animal is a friend. Newberg and his co-authors describe the complex mating rituals of butterflies, such as males flying around females brushing their wings. Both the male and female do behave in complex ways before they mate.

Religious experiences involve the same neurological structures as sex, and that is why there is rhythm in both systems (during intercourse and in religious ecstasy). Rhythm and repetition are the essential elements of ritual.

In humans, rituals generate emotional discharges such as tranquility, ecstasy, and spiritual transcendence. Participation in spiritual activities reduces blood pressure, lowers rates of respiration, increases cortisol levels, and improves the immune system (Newberg et al., p.86). In Sufi dancing arousal is intense. Activation of the orientation area of the brain leads to a sense of no separation between “self” and “not-self.” In mysticism there is contact with the Absolute, and with the intensely loved one. Mystical experiences are the source of all religion. For those who are not religious, art, such as great music, e.g., Beethoven, can provide the ecstasies that are normally provided by religion.

Religion reduces uncertainty, improves health, and is especially good for our mental health (Triandis, 2009b). The experience of something larger than ourselves is what Einstein called the “cosmic religious feeling.” It is the experience of the universe as a single significant whole (Newberg et al., p.154). Triandis (2009b) argues that humans need a goal that is greater than themselves. To treat all humanity as brothers and sisters is an immense goal. But religions have a negative side as well. They are not only associated with violence but also with guilt. Counseling psychologist Ray (2009) described how many of his patients feel guilty because sexual behavior that is perfectly normal is considered “a sin” in their religion.

Religion helps people deal with uncertainty, and dangerous, unpredictable situations (Barber, 2011). Barber showed that the more predictable the environment (economic, health) the less emphasis is given to religion in most cultures. In a study of 137 cultures, disbelief in God was higher when there was economic and health security.

Religions Become More Violent When They Are Under Attack

Consider one of the more famous cases of religious violence. During the night of St. Bartholomew in 1572, 50,000 to 100,000 Protestants were killed by French Catholics. Some of the Catholics had a “mystical experience, a moment akin to resurrection, in which they came closer to God” (Carroll, 2009). Violence is especially likely when a religion feels under attack. Catholics felt under attack by Protestants; all religions now feel under attack by modernity (science, technology, emphasis on reason; de-emphasis of customs and faith). Some parts of Islam are especially defensive about modernity. Modernity is inconsistent with the attributes of much of current Islam, though 12th century Islam was consistent with the modernity of that time. In the 20th century there have been

movements toward modernity in Islam, such as Kemal Atatürk in Turkey and others (Esposito, 2003), but on the whole Islam feels rejected by the West (Allawi, 2009). Naomi Eisenberger (in M. Brockman, 2011, *Future science: Essays from the leading edge*. N. Y. Vintage Books) discovered that social rejection activates the same parts of the brain as physical pain. Thus, for instance, in careful experiments, Tylenol reduced the feelings associated with social rejection. In most mammals physical pain results in aggression. We can extrapolate that when Islam feels rejected (e.g., Rushdie, the Danish cartoons, the issue of a French satirical magazine who used Mohammed as the “editor” with instructions to the reader to “die laughing”) it becomes more violent.

One of the clearest cases of Islam under attack by modernity and science is found in Nigeria. The Boko Haram (it means: Western education is sinful) sect of Islam objects to all forms of Western education, and insists that the whole of Nigeria (a country whose South is Christian) should adopt Shariah law. Again this is a totally Islamocentric perspective. Clearly they advocate escape from modernity, e.g., science. If science is sinful that part of the world is condemned to remain poor. Allawi (2009) discusses in detail the conflict between Islam and science. Many intellectuals in Islam take the position that there are two kinds of knowledge: permanent (coming from God) and changeable (coming from science). Allawi seems to favor the permanent.

Is there a Way to De-escalate Violence in Islam?

Most humans prefer peace to violence. Most Muslims are embarrassed by the violence of the 1 percent, but are too timid to object (Gabriel, 2006). Since religion is so valuable to most people it is unrealistic to try to make Muslims less religious. However, it is probably feasible to move them away from their sacred books, to more secular viewpoints.

Gabriel (2006) mentions that some Egyptian jihadists stopped violence when they realized that violence increases resistance to Islam. We need to stress that violence has made the life of Muslims in the West much more uncomfortable, and reduced the chances that Shariah law will be accepted world-wide. Few people around the world in the 21st century want to see adulterous women stoned, execution for apostasy or blasphemy, thieves to have their hands cut off, the elimination of usury, the prohibition of alcohol and the like. The world is no longer tolerant of many aspects of Shariah law. The dream of the jihadists that they can impose Shariah law on the world is a wild phantasy. It assumes that the world is in the 7th rather than in a global 21st century. It shows their ignorance and lack of realistic thinking.

Every force produces a counter-force. If we are to de-escalate violence we need to show more respect for Islam. At the same time Islam has to convince its 1 percent that what they are doing reduces the respect that the majority of the world population feels toward Islam, and in fact is so counter-productive that it might destroy Islam in the long run.

Thus, to decrease Islamic violence it may be wise to show less rejection and ridicule of Islam, but also to push Islam toward a more realistic appraisal of the 21st Century, and to an increased understanding of the role of globalization and modernity.

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The Next International Congress of Applied Psychology Paris: July 8–13, 2014

The organization of the 28th ICAP, which is going to take place in two years and a half, in Paris, is running well and smoothly. For this Congress, we have created a *Consortium of Psychology Associations* (A-CIPA) which has been very helpful in bringing together the two main Associations of French Psychologists: the *French Federation* and the *French Society*; our association brought together all French psychologists, and we are now working all together for many joint projects around the 28th ICAP.

For the organization of this major event we have two main committees, the Organizing Committee and the Scientific Committee; both groups are composed of a Board, which jointly runs the business, along with a larger group of members, who each represent one of the Divisions of IAAP and work as liaisons with the Divisions' Presidents.

In relation to the scientific aspects of the Congress, and in particular to the program which will be distributed for the Cape Town IUPsY Congress, we have started inviting about 40 major keynote speakers, and we will also have a series of invited symposia dedicated to main societal problems. We will have more than 100 invited Keynotes including, state of the art sessions, and about 250 invited Symposia.

We have decided that, during the whole Congress, there will also be one session in French, with slides in English. We should be able to obtain sponsorship or grants for some simultaneous translation.

About the Social Program, we already started thinking about what to offer you! For the time being, we are mainly focusing on the opening ceremony, which will definitely be a great event.

We look forward to welcoming you all in Paris in July 2014!

Prof. Christine Roland-Lévy, Congress President

For more information, please visit the official website of the congress : www.icap2014.com

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COMMENTARY: Equity with Rodents: an Adventure in Environmental Psychology

–Robert F. Morgan, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

“WE WANT WHAT THE RATS GET!” said one sign.

It is said that three blindfolded (politically correct version) men put in a room with an elephant would each describe a different creature based on where they groped the animal. We say “would”

because an elephant groped in such a manner would likely object and few survivors of this experiment are likely.

Self-aware elephants are unlikely laboratory animals for most psychological experiments. White laboratory rats are more traditional, dogs and cats have been used in many parts of the world since Pavlov. Signing chimpanzees have also been used as experimental animals but their own self-awareness and communications have led to a growing understanding that to treat them in a non-humane way should and must be discontinued (Fouts, 2003). There is also a very famous gorilla named Koko who has been taught by Francine Patterson to communicate with sign language (Patterson 1987, 1999) and even, with Dr. Patterson as intermediary, holding an internet interview a few years ago. (When the Scientific Organizing Committee of our 1998 ICAP world congress in San Francisco asked me for some original ideas, my favorite was to invite Koko as a keynote speaker: there was no apparent interest in this at the time.)

In the 21st century, university students are often the key species of experimental interest. Yet the rat colonies survive and are normally protected by a series of environmentally friendly laws and ethical codes dedicated to the humane treatment of these animals.

One day, as a psychology department chairperson in a Colorado university, the department secretary complained to me of headaches and eye strain. Her desk was well lit by large fluorescent lights.

A review of earlier research (Morgan, 2004, 2011) suggested that fluorescent lights could cause headaches or even narcolepsy for some people by synchrony with the flicker. Another problem was the restricted light spectrum in most such lights which, over hours and days, could lead to eye strain. It would seem that fluorescent lighting, using less energy at less cost, might well be useful for areas requiring bright inexpensive lighting at short time intervals- places like library stacks. However, for people using this light all day long, it would seem that natural or incandescent lighting would be the far better choice. Health should not be a lost variable when considering contemporary economic choices.

Today cheaper fluorescents are often being mandated while the manufacture of equally cheap incandescent lighting can be overlooked, much less the enhanced use of natural lighting in buildings. Environmental psychology can contribute here.

As a first step, I told the department secretary I would get the fluorescent tubes in her lighting changed to full spectrum lighting, an array approximating the range of natural light. I called the appropriate university manager and asked for this.

He declined: "Those tubes each cost a dollar more than the ones we are using now." He was concerned everybody working in the university would want the better lights, thus multiplying his costs.

After some thought I called him back.

"Are full spectrum lights being used anywhere in the university now?" I asked (expecting they might be in the President's office). But he surprised me.

"Yes, in the rat colony. These lab animals get sick with regular fluorescents". Having acknowledged this, the purchase request was still declined.

The department secretary was a very assertive individual. Learning of the priority of rats she, with my delighted support, organized the university staff in a protest march: "EQUITY WITH RATS!" was one sign and "WE WANT WHAT THE RATS GET!" was another. The protest, with suitable publicity, succeeded and they got the full spectrum lights.

In recent years, as a visiting professor at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, the understanding of the environment was quite sophisticated on these issues, possibly because of half the year having little light and the other half having nonstop light. I recall the midnight parade in June and the 4 hours of daylight in January. The Clinical-Community Psychology PhD program I worked in there was thoroughly advised by native Alaskans, to its great advantage.

At one such week long retreat, I shared the preceding episode of lights and rats. This was quietly accepted with smiles. Later, in the circle, each of us was asked to tell a very important memory that we did not understand. By then it was dark and only the campfire lit our thoughts.

My memory was about being in an apparently terminal condition where I retreated into the hypnotic “safe place” visualization in my mind to get away from the pain (Morgan, 2000). To my surprise at the time, it was something new: I was in an ice fishing hut with a small fire and a hole in the ice through which I could see some large beautiful fish underneath. Strange, since I was living at the time in Guam, a place that never knows ice fishing. But my safe place had been as cold as an arctic night.

Whenever I needed to, I kept going back to this visualized hut where I gained energy and a sense of peace. What I did not get was better. In what seemed like my final visit of many, I realized that I didn’t want to catch these fish. I already had some sandwiches to eat and I didn’t want to damage their beauty or take their life. I pulled the fish hook out of the hole. Then I dropped pieces of my sandwiches down the hole and fed the fish. The next day I began my recovery and eventually regained my health.

Now actually in Alaska, the native advisors interpreted my visualization in this way:

“What you did with light for the secretary is what you psychology people are here on earth to do. In this memory you are told to come to Alaska and help, and not hurt, the beautiful fish—which are most likely us and people like us.”

May we all try our best to do so.

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