The IUPsyS Monthly Bulletin is for IUPsyS National Members, Affiliates, and related organizations, and their members. It provides brief updates on the work of the Union and related regional and international matters.

All National Members, Affiliates and Liaisons of IUPsyS are encouraged to circulate this and future Bulletins to relevant groups, such as members of committees or their national membership.

If you have comments about the Bulletin or suggestions for items to include in future editions, or if you wish to add names to the IUPsyS email list for the Bulletin and Newsletter, please contact the IUPsyS Secretariat: secretariat@iupsys.org

This Bulletin and previous issues are available at: http://www.iupsys.net/publications/bulletin/index.html
IUPsyS’ Global Footprint

2016 IUPSYs Assembly Is Historic

The IUPsyS quadrennial Assembly that was held in Yokohama, Japan on 25 and 27 July enjoyed the greatest representation and created a new trajectory for Psychology’s Global Voice.

The Assembly met in the aftermath of an attempted coup in Turkey that precluded an Executive Committee (EC) member and the delegate from Turkey from attending. Nevertheless, the Assembly traversed the range of issues raised by the EC, with full reports from the various officials. Membership was granted to the Taiwanese Psychological Association, giving the Union a total of 87 national country members. The Arab Union of Psychological Sciences (AUPsyS), the International Council of Psychology Educators (ICOPE), and the Pan-African Psychology Union (PAPU) were admitted as the newest Affiliates of the Union, which now stands at 24 regional and international psychology entities.

The International Council for Science (ICSU) Executive Board Member, Professor Kazuyuki Tatsumi, and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) EC Member, Yasuhiko Saito, brought fraternal greetings and gave insightful overviews on the work of their Councils and the merger deliberations. IUPsyS is a key member of both ICSU and ISSC. Michel Sabourin, who had been IUPsyS Treasurer from 1993-2016, delivered his final report to the Assembly and received a standing ovation.

Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Chair of the ICP2016 Scientific Programme, presented milestones achieved at the 31st ICP, which surpassed 8,000 participating delegates. Šárka Dobiášová reported on the planning for the 32nd ICP that will take place in Prague, Czech Republic in July 2020. Respective national member delegations presented compelling competitive bids for ICP2024 from Seoul, Brisbane, and Rio de Janeiro. The ICP2024 bid was won by Rio de Janeiro, Brazil will be the first ICP to be held in South America since the 1st ICP was held in Paris, France in August 1889.

Of special note at the IUPsyS Assembly were the:

- Successful publications programme
- Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum that was held on 24 July in Yokohama and the Asia-Pacific Declaration signed by the various national members and endorsed by the many representatives who were present at the Forum
- Disaster Training Institutes in the Asia-Pacific region
- Various national, regional and international events that the Union actively participated in
- Engagement in the WHO revision of ICD-10, Mental and Behavioural Disorders, and mhGAP

A comprehensive review of the Union’s engagement with the United Nations and related organizations was presented. The Presidential Task Force on the United Nations proposed “six major recommendations of a multicomponent strategy for the Union’s engagement with the United Nations and its related agencies. Initial action steps associated with each recommendation have been also been developed. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Collaborate with the UN, its agencies and missions on activities centered around the SDGs (while maintaining current engagements); 2. Establish a standing committee on the UN and related agencies whose goal is to develop and implement a strategic plan for collaborating with the UN; 3. Develop a model for cultivating long-term relationships with the UN agencies and Permanent Missions; 4. Appoint 2-3 representatives to the UN Headquarters in NYC to provide continuity of presence and involvement with the UN and the Permanent Missions; 5. Continue cooperative partnerships with other psychological associations at the UN and develop ties to non-psychology NGO’s working at the UN; and 6. Communicate with and involve national members and regional affiliates in IUPsyS’ work with the UN, its agencies and Missions.”

2016-2020 IUPsyS Executive Committee
National members and other stakeholders will be interviewed during an external review of the Union, which will result in a new strategic plan, vision and mission. Task Teams will consider greater representativeness within the Union and will further consider appropriate rules of procedure for IUPsyS meetings.

Following the Assembly adopting statute changes to improve governance and reduce leadership risk, President Cooper will remain as President till the next Assembly in 2018, as will Past President Rainer K. Silbereisen. In a closely contested election, the following now serve on the IUPsyS EC:

- President-Elect: Maras, Pam United Kingdom
- Secretary-General: Ann Watts South Africa
- Treasurer: Goh, Chee Leong Malaysia

2016 IUPSYs Awards Quadrennial Awards

The IUPsyS quadrennial Awards have been gaining momentum, with worthy applications for each of the Awards (details of the Awards may be viewed at: http://www.iupsys.net/about/awards/index.html ). The distinguished juries chose the following Awardees.

- Major Advancement in Psychological Science Prize - Professor Alan Baddeley, University of York, United Kingdom
- Lifetime Career Award - Professor Peter J. Lang, University of Florida, USA
- Achievement Against the Odds Award - Professor Houcan Zhang, Beijing Normal University, China
- Young Investigator Award: Basic Science - Professor Fang Fang, Peking University, China
- Young Investigator Award: Applied Science - Professor Brian J. Hall, University of Macau, China

The 2016 IUPsyS Awards ceremony was held at ICP 2016 soon after the IUPsyS Presidential Address at approximately 11:40 on Monday 25 July in the main hall of the Pacifico Yokohama.
THE ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE

By Brett Bowman, PhD*

In June 49 people lost their lives while enjoying the nightlife in Orlando, Florida. In piecing together what led to the tragedy, several important factors have been highlighted by the global media, social networks and widespread scholarly commentary. Chief amongst these include ease of access to high-powered automatic weapons capable of mass killing in minutes, the ‘radicalization’ of Omar Mateen, and a rampant homophobia deeply rooted in political and religious landscapes the world over. If psychological science is to offer anything beyond its stock explanations for these sorts of violent events that customarily draw attention to the individual susceptibilities of the perpetrator only, then our analyses should be guided by evidence rather than disciplinary convention.

A public health approach to violence would consistently show that while once considered etched into the psychological architecture of being human, individual-level characteristics form only a small part of the composite, systemic picture of the violence of the type witnessed in Orlando’s Pulse Nightclub. The historical, social and economic differentiations in the distributions of fatal violence are startling. The most recent global report on violence released by the World Health Organisation in 2014 offers an important rejoinder to those who may be tempted to consider the devastating attack in Orlando an outlier on the charts that describe patterns of global violence.

About 1.6 million people a year are victims of violence of all kinds. Between 2000 and 2012, approximately 6 million people died from interpersonal violence. This figure exceeds the deaths attributable to all wars between this period. In 2012 alone, 6.7 people in every one hundred thousand were victims of homicide worldwide. This rate differs significantly across regions, almost doubling in Africa and quadrupling in the Americas (WHO, 2014).

The assault rifle and handgun used by Mateen in Orlando are familiar instruments in the execution of fatal violence, with handguns being used in approximately half of all homicides on earth. Gender is another important ingredient in the recipe for violence. While males constitute 82 percent of all homicide victims at a top-end rate of about 4 times those of females, sexual violence is an almost daily reality for many females across the world (WHO, 2014). Patriarchal social arrangements are primary determinants of these gendered patterns. Affronts to forms of patriarchy that anchor myriad religious and political

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world views are punished with violence. A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) highlights that sexual minorities have an equal or greater risk for falling victim to sexual violence than their heterosexual counterparts (CDC, 2013). These sexual minorities are consistently exposed to structural violence in the form of systematic exclusions from a host of everyday rights, and other more overt forms of violence such as corrective rape are frequently reported by lesbians in low-income contexts that are especially vulnerable to assaults without the guarantees to safety that the state should provide (Brown, 2012).

Violence reduction is variable. Since being identified as a global public health problem in 1996, variations in the decline of homicide are telling. In high-income countries homicides have decreased by 39% since 2000. However in middle and low income countries this shift has been far less dramatic at 13 and 10 percent respectively. Despite these differences, the underlying message is that violence is preventable given political will and vision. It is incumbent on psychologists to mobilise the former and lead in outlining the latter. Two relatively recent policy developments provide opportune moments in which to do both. The newly penned Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize violence as an important obstacle to optimal human growth (Bowman & Matzopoulos, 2016), and on the 30th June 2016, the United Nations’ Human Rights Council resolved to establish independent expertise to examine the root causes of violence against people based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (Morello, 2016). Taking these platforms seriously means that psychological science can draw a direct intervention line into the three factors that provided fertile ground for the gun violence in Florida. In extending its customary purview, psychological science has a role to play in understanding and changing the recalcitrance of heterosexism and homophobia, challenging a patriarchy reluctant to part with its guns and interrogating growing levels of inequality that sustain the reach and vigour of fundamentalisms of all types.

Seen alone, the Orlando attacks appear the end-point of a pathological murderer intent on destroying an ideological enemy. However, our now well-established picture of the variations in risk and distribution of the risk factors that came together in the Orlando tragedy are proof that violence is not a uniform human curse (Bowman, Seedat, Duncan & Kobusingye, 2006). Rather, it can be studied and shifted if treated as the reverse; a fundamental obstacle to health and thriving – a violation of what it means to be human. As a human science guided by a commitment to serve all, psychology has much to contribute to the overall project of the study and prevention of violence. To do so meaningfully implies extending its scope to confront the root causes and enactments of violence rather than only the interior worlds of its actors as its primary objects of study and intervention.

REFERENCES


The Turkish Psychological Association (TPA) was the host of the European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations’ (EFPA) European Semester. The major activities were initiated with the goal of creating a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst psychologists in Europe and the promotion of psychology overall. The symposium of “European Reflections on Ethics in Psychology” was organised by the EFPA Board of Ethics and chaired by Yeşim Korkut on behalf of the TPA on 15 April 2016. The core concepts of identity, confidentiality, competency, and diverse issues on ethics were the main topics of the conversation.

The Standing Committee on Disaster, Crisis and Trauma Psychology meeting took place on 20-21 May 2016. Prior to the meetings, a symposium entitled “On the Psychosocial Needs of Refugees” took place on 20 May 2016 and was chaired by Banu Yılmaz (TPA) with contributions from standing committee members and guest speakers from Turkey, particularly focusing on Syrian refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants.

EFPA Presidents’ Council Meeting transpired on 27 May 2016. Nebi Sümer delivered a speech on the brief history of psychology in Turkey, the current state of psychology education, and professional initiatives that TPA engages in such as accreditation, EuroPsy, and the internationalizing of undergraduate curriculum. During the same meeting, Bilge Selçuk had a brief initiative on “Academics for Peace”, which was recently experienced by academics in Turkey asking for peace and a returning to negotiations rather than increasing the tension and violence in the Southeast region. As a result of Turkish governing authorities’ punitive response toward the petitioners, international organisations such as IUPsyS, EFPA, APA, BDP, and PsySR, expressed their solidarity by sending official letters to the governmental authorities of Turkey.

This year, the Turkish Psychological Association is celebrating its 40th anniversary and the 19th National Congress of Psychology will be held from 5-7 September 2016. İzmir will give the opportunity to members of TPA and other psychologists to discuss how to contribute to the development of such a unique profession.
LITHUANIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ELECTS A NEW PRESIDENT - DR NERINGA GRIGUTYTE

On 7 May 2016 at the Annual Meeting of Lithuanian Psychological Association (LPA), Dr Neringa Grigutyte was elected as the new President of LPA. Dr Neringa Grigutyte replaced Past President of LPA Dr Evaldas Kazlauskas who had assumed this position for six years. The Annual Meeting was held during the 6th Lithuanian Congress of Psychology.

The Lithuanian Psychological Association is a fast-growing organisation comprising more than 500 professional psychologists and students of psychology. The main goal of the association is to promote professional practice consistent with European qualification standard for psychologists. There are ten committees that focus on the following: professional ethics; professional regulation; child psychological well-being; clinical and health psychology; educational psychology; organisational psychology; forensic psychology; and psychological evaluation and testing. LPA played an active role in establishing and continues to fulfill this role in forming the psychology licensing system in Lithuania.

News from International Bodies

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE

ICSU ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

2015 was a valuable year with new international agreements on climate change, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. ICSU was present in all these processes, convening scientific input and representing the research community. For more information and to access the Annual Report, please see: http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/icsu-annual-report-2015-now-available
News from International Bodies

ICSU HOSTS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON HEALTH WITHIN THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Many of the drivers of ill health lie outside of the health sector. There is a major public health concern for cities now and in the future as the interactions of global climate change, urban heat islands, air pollution, and other drivers will place increasing health burdens on cities. The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III – will be a defining moment for the future of cities. ICSU, in partnership with the World Health Organisation, UN-Habitat, United Nations University (UNU), International Society for Urban Health (ISUH), Government of Ghana & Government of Norway is hosting an Expert Group Meeting on how a focus on health issues and the health sector can contribute to building sustainable and healthy cities, and promote the inclusion of health in the New Urban Agenda. The aim of this Expert Group Meeting is to propose text specifically for inclusion in the New Urban Agenda, and an outline for a background report summarizing the evidence on how health can contribute to sustainable urban development. For more information, see: http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/icsu-hosts-expert-group-meeting-on-health-within-the-new-urban-agenda

LAUNCH OF THE WORLD SOCIAL SCIENCE REPORT 2016: CHALLENGING INEQUALITIES – PATHWAYS TO A JUST WORLD

The World Social Science Report 2016: Challenging Inequalities – Pathways to a Just World will be launched on 22 September 2016, at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden. The event is hosted by the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS). Never before has inequality been so high on the agenda of policy makers worldwide, or such a hot topic for social science research. Governments worldwide have committed to take action on inequality through the Sustainable Development Goals, around the universal aim to ‘leave no-one behind’. Today, more journal articles are published on the topic of inequality and social justice than ever before. For more information, see: http://www.worldsocialscience.org/2018/06/save-date-launch-world-social-science-report-2016-challenging-inequalities-pathways-just-world/

Visit http://www.iupsys.net/ for more information