



# Bulletin

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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](mailto:secretariat@iupsys.org)

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.

## IUPsyS' Global Footprint

### TORTURE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES - COMMENT BY IUPsyS PRESIDENT SATHS COOPER



The New York Times article of 30 April 2015 ('American Psychological Association Bolstered C.I.A. Torture Program, Report Says') has resurrected the spectra of psychologists' involvement in torture and other human rights abuses in an era of prevailing global insecurity occasioned by terror and its consequences.

When any group is perceived as being under threat, <sup>1</sup>certain members of that group can easily resort to a justification of the methods that they may utilise or rely on to protect their apparent group interests. Participation in politics, the military, other state organs and private entities geared at the protection or promotion of one's own or specific group interests, is the right of any scientist. Condoning or abetting acts of blatant abuse are not, especially for a profession that is broadly regarded as having healing and caring amongst its widely acknowledged aims. Complicity in or silence during human rights abuses can only but undermine the credibility of psychology.

The International Council for Science (ICSU) comment that "The potential for the misuse of science is broader and arguably greater and more dangerous than at any time in the past. International terrorism, and associated political and military conflicts, have brought with them prejudicial behaviour and new constraints on scientific activity (ICSU, 2004)."

In the early 1970s, the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) confronted such issues of "severe political oppression, disappearance of dissenters, and widespread tales of rape, torture, and murder evident in several countries of South America" (Rosenzweig et al., 2000, p.153). "Rumors that psychologists working for the military governments in these countries were aiding and abetting the mental breakdown of dissenters in order to force confessions were particularly disturbing." The American Psychological Association (APA), then an IUPsyS member in its own right, "asked the Union to address these issues" (Ibid.).

The IUPsyS Executive Committee (EC) - at its meeting in Montréal, Canada, on 27 July 1974 - was explicit "that the International Union of Psychological Science denounces vigorously all practices that are contrary to the high level of morality that must regulate the scientific and professional roles assumed by psychologists in modern society" (Ibid., p.159). The EC began a process of proactively engaging national associations of psychology to establish "formal codes of scientific and professional ethics and conduct" (Ibid., p.153) and urged them "to accept responsibility for monitoring the compliance of their individual members and for applying sanctions where their code had been violated" (Ibid., p.154).

Notably, R. W. Russell from the USA, who had served on the IUPsyS EC from 1957 to 1980 in various capacities, including President, led the discussion.

Wayne Holtzman, who served as Secretary-General from 1972 to 1984, organised a special symposium at the International Congress of Psychology that was held in Paris from 18 to 25 July 1976 "on the subject of scientific and professional ethics and conduct, with particular reference to the issues of oppression and torture" (Ibid., p.159). Otto Klineberg, another American, <sup>2</sup>who served in the EC from 1951 to 1969 in various capacities, including President, chaired this symposium which attracted "a large, standing-room-only audience" (Ibid., p.158).

On 27 July 1976, the IUPsyS Assembly resolved that because the subject of our science is behaviour, it was "particularly concerned with any acts by which individuals in a systematic and deliberate way infringe upon the inviolable rights of human beings, regardless of race, religion, or ideology, these rights being guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations; and which is concerned with strict observance of professional standards of ethics in the practice of psychology" (Ibid., p.159).

The Assembly unanimously declared that:

"It proclaims that no psychologist, in the exercise of his or her professional functions, should accept instructions or motivations that are inspired by considerations that are foreign to the profession;

It protests solemnly against any use of scientific data or of professional methods of psychology that impair the above-mentioned rights;

It formally condemns any collaboration by psychologists - whether actively or passively, directly or indirectly - with the above-mentioned abuses, and it urges its members to oppose any abuses of this sort;

It requests each member-society to make certain that it has enacted a code of ethics and to take those actions required by its code against any member guilty of such abuses against human rights;

It declares that the Executive Committee ... is ready to support, with all means at its disposal, any action undertaken by a member-society in order to carry out the terms of the present resolution" (Ibid., p.159).

The Assembly welcomed the United Nations Resolution 3452 (XXX), adopted by the 30th Session of the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1975 on the *Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (Ibid., p.159).

<sup>1</sup>Not quite the group threat theory which Blumer developed (1958).

<sup>2</sup>Five of the sixteen IUPsyS EC members were from the USA: Holtzman, Jerome Bruner, EH Jacobson, Mark Rosenzweig and Russell.

# IUPsyS' Global Footprint

On 22 July 2008, at the Berlin Assembly, IUPsyS adopted the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists - inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - which a task team began working on from the July 2002 IUPsyS Singapore Assembly. The Declaration's four principles - Respect for the Dignity of Persons and Peoples, Competent Caring for the Well-Being of Persons and Peoples, Integrity and Professional and Scientific Responsibilities to Society - speak to "the common moral framework that guides and inspires psychologists worldwide toward the highest ethical ideals in their professional and scientific work" (IUPsyS, 2008).<sup>3</sup> The objective of the Declaration is "to provide a moral framework and generic set of ethical principles for psychology organizations worldwide:

1. To evaluate the ethical and moral relevance of their codes of ethics;
2. To use as a template to guide the development or evolution of their codes of ethics;
3. To encourage global thinking about ethics, while also encouraging action that is sensitive and responsive to local needs and values; and
4. To speak with a collective voice on matters of ethical concern" (IUPsyS, 2008).

The APA's own Ethics Code (2010) is informed by General Principles – Beneficence and Nonmaleficence, Fidelity and Responsibility, Integrity, Justice, and Respect for People's Rights and Dignity – which "should be considered by psychologists in arriving at an ethical course of action" (APA, 2010, p. 2). The APA's Ethical Standards, which flow from these General Principles, prescribe "enforceable rules for conduct as psychologists" (Ibid.). APA members are adjured to "to comply with the standards of the APA Ethics Code and to the rules and procedures used to enforce them. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an Ethical Standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct" (Ibid.).

IUPsyS adheres to the ICSU principle of the Universality of Science that embodies the "free and responsible practice of science, freedom of movement, association, expression and communication for scientists, as well as equitable opportunities for access to science and its benefits, access to data, information and research material; and actively upholds this principle, by opposing any discrimination on the basis of such factors as ethnic origin, religion, citizenship, language, political stance, gender, sex, sexual orientation, or age" (IUPsyS Statutes, 2012, p.1).

Unless another IUPsyS Assembly unanimously resolves to rescind our 27 July 1976 resolution, which is highly unlikely, it remains entrenched as inviolable IUPsyS policy. The APA is not a direct member of IUPsyS (3), but the United States National Academy of Sciences is our adhering body for the USA through the US National Committee for IUPsyS (USNC). The USNC which represents all psychologists in that country at IUPsyS includes APA members (National Academies, 2015). IUPsyS welcomes the 1 May 2015 response by APA CEO Norman Anderson to the New York Times affirming "The A.P.A.'s strict policies prohibiting psychologists from participating in torture" and that the review by external attorney David Hoffman "will be made public, in its entirety" (Anderson, 2015) so that public trust in psychology may be swiftly restored.

IUPsyS recommends that all national, regional and international psychology associations carefully monitor human rights violations within their jurisdiction, especially where psychologists may be directly or indirectly involved. Acting swiftly to hold ourselves accountable when suspicions arise over alleged human rights abuses and "applying sanctions where ethical codes have been violated" (pace Rosenzweig et al., p.154) will hopefully avoid our science and profession from becoming mired in needless controversy, thus contributing significantly to mitigate reputation risk.

Even a cursory reading of the above should unequivocally elucidate the long-standing IUPsyS policy related to any involvement of psychologists in torture and other human rights abuses which is grounded in our established ethical principles and pronouncements. While behavioural knowledge can be used for nefarious purposes, as evidenced during times of war and man-made crises, the witting involvement of psychologists in torture and other human rights abuses cannot be condoned. Our claim to being human - indeed civilised - is revealed by how we treat the worst off in our midst.

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<sup>3</sup>Rosenzweig, during Holtzman's term as IUPsyS President (1984-1988), ensured that the APA, a Charter Member of IUPsyS, was replaced by the USNC located at the US National Academy of Sciences (Rosenzweig

## IUPsyS' Global Footprint



### PRESIDENT COOPER ATTENDS INAUGURAL PSYCHOLOGY

### CONFERENCE AND LAUNCH OF THE CAMEROON PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (CPA)

The Inaugural Psychology Conference and launch of the Cameroon Psychological Association (CPA) was held at the Dorothy Limunga Njeuma Amphitheatre, University of Buea (UB), Buea, Cameroon, from 9 to 11 April 2015. The theme of the Inaugural CPA Conference was *The Psychology of Human Wellbeing*. This historic event attracted academics and students from the various university centres in Cameroon, as well as practitioners.

The 2nd Biennial International Inclusive Education Symposium (IES) in West and Central Africa organised by UB from 6 April preceded the Inaugural CPA Conference. The event was opened by UB Vice Chancellor, Prof Nalova, under the patronage of the Cameroon Minister of Higher Education in collaboration with the Teacher Task Force of UNESCO Paris and its Regional Office, and the West and Central African Association for Special and Inclusive Education (WACAASIE). This IES involved educators and graduate students from various countries, especially from West and Central Africa and even countries outside Africa - such as Canada, France, Lebanon, Nepal, and the UK - who presented in poster and podium formats, including keynote addresses by eminent scholars in the field.

The CPA President, Prof Bame Nsamenang, facilitated a session on *Supervised University Research*. The outgoing WACAASIE President, Prof Ambrose Nwazuoke Ikechukwu, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, passed on the baton of leadership to Prof Tchombe, who was one of the CPA delegates to the Pan-African Psychology Union (PAPU) Inauguration and Launch in September 2014. IUPsyS President Cooper, gave the Opening Address. Prof Tchombe gave the Invited Address, Mediated Reciprocity as a psychological framework for discerning the cognitive expectations of globalisation in Africa, and fielded comments and questions on her theoretical approach.

It was noted that the CPA had dispatched a letter to the Prime Minister advising of the formation of this national representative body for the science and profession. The offer from Prof Same Kollo, made on behalf of colleagues and students from the University of Douala, to host the 2nd CPA Conference in Douala next April was accepted with acclaim.

At the closing ceremony, the CPA General Assembly expressed gratitude to the UB Vice Chancellor and her team for the "generosity of spirit and resources that provided the enabling conditions for the conference." The Assembly also acknowledged "with thanks the active and insightful participation of IUPsyS President Cooper, and took decisions relating to English and French as the communication languages of CPA, the enlarged Executive

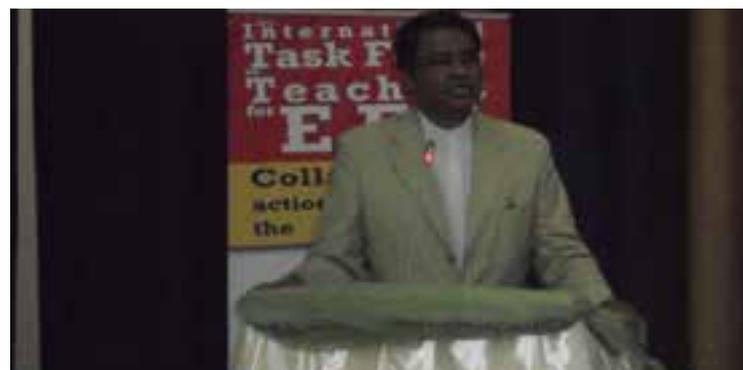
Council Meeting in Bamenda on 13 June 2015, and confirming the 2nd CPA Conference at the University of Douala in April 2016. This Inaugural CPA conference had 167 delegates from across Cameroon.



CPA Executive Committee



President Cooper chairing the scientific address  
(Prof Ebale & Prof Nsamenang on his right)



President Cooper giving the Keynote address

## News from National Members and Affiliates...

### PORTUGUESE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

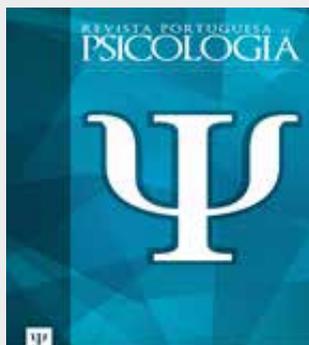
The Portuguese Psychological Society (Sociedade Portuguesa de Psicologia, SPP) is a scientific society that was established in 1960. At that time, psychology had very little expression in Portugal, being regarded with suspicion by the current regime. Since then it has played an important role in the historical development of scientific and professional psychology in Portugal, such as in the establishment of the teaching of psychology at universities after the revolution in 1974, and of the first Deontological Code of Portuguese Psychologists, in collaboration with the National Union of Psychologists, in 1978.

Since its inception, it has sought to bring together psychologists from different regions of the country. Faithful to this principle, it currently includes in its leadership elements from many different universities and institutions in Portugal. In agreement with the mission defined in its by-laws, the SPP has brought out several publications in the field of psychology. Among these, the most salient is the *Revista Portuguesa de Psicologia* (Portuguese Journal of Psychology), the first issue being published in 1967, is currently the oldest psychology scientific journal in Portugal. It has published not only articles by Portuguese psychologists, but also contributions by many eminent authors from other countries in Europe and the Americas, such as William Bingham, Alejandro Ávila-Espada, Jean-Blaise Dupont, John Exner, Paul Fraisse, Jean Guichard, José Luís Hesketh, José Morais, Etienne Mullet, Pierre Oléron, Maurice Reuchlin, Marc Richelle, Mark Rosenzweig, Paul G. Schmitz, Robert Sternberg, Donald Super, and Charles de Wolff.

The SPP has also organised many national and international scientific meetings. In 2014 it organised the 3rd Seminar on Psychological Intervention with Children and Adolescents, a Seminar on the Reiss Motivation Profile and, in collaboration with the Asociación Española de Psicología Conductual (Spanish Association for Behavioral Psychology), the VIth International Congress of Clinical Psychology.

For more information, please email: [spp@fpce.ul.pt](mailto:spp@fpce.ul.pt) and visit:

<http://www.spp.fpce.ul.pt/index.htm>



Portuguese Journal of Psychology

### THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PSYCHOLOGY (NAOP) INDIA

The National Academy of Psychology (NAOP), India is a professional organisation founded in 1987 that includes scientists, practitioners, and researchers in the field of psychology. NAOP is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in the field of psychology. NAOP strives for promoting, advancing, and safeguarding the interests of psychology as a discipline engaged in teaching, research, application, societal development and human welfare. Its specific objectives are:

1. to promote growth of psychology in India, and safeguard its interests;
2. to publish high quality journals;
3. to endeavour to set up mechanisms for the accreditation of courses in psychology;
4. to establish and maintain liaison with national as well as international associations in academic and professional matters;
5. to identify and honour individuals for their outstanding contributions to psychological research and/or professional practice as Fellows of the Academy;
6. to make efforts for ensuring high ethical standards in teaching, research, and professional services;
7. to promote the highest standards of psychological measurement, testing and instrumentation; and
8. to carry out such other functions as may be deemed necessary to achieve its primary objectives

As per the constitution of NAOP, the following standing committees perform various functions of the organisation: Membership Committee; Publication Committee; Finance Committee; Fellowship and Awards Committee; Conference Committee; Election Committee; Accreditation and Certification Committee; Ethics Committee; Social Policy Committee; and Liaison Committee. The official journal of NAOP has been published by Springer since January 2009. Under the able editorship of Prof. G. Misra, the journal is the leading psychology journal published from India and has created a niche for itself internationally. NAOP has been holding its Annual Convention since its inception and its next convention will be its 25th Annual Convention.

The current president of NAOP is Prof. Purnima Singh and the Secretary-General and the corresponding officer is Prof. Narayanan Srinivasan. The treasurer of NAOP is Dr. Kumar Ravi Priya. More information on NAOP and its activities can be viewed at:

[www.naopindia.org](http://www.naopindia.org).



Inaugural ceremony of the 24th Annual Convention of the National Academy of Psychology at Bhopal from 12-14 December 2014.

## News from International Bodies

### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION: GLOBAL CLINICAL PRACTICE NETWORK



An article regarding the WHO's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Global Clinical Practice Network (GCPN) has just been published

in *Lancet Psychiatry*. The article can be accessed at: <http://www.thelancet.com/.../PIIS2215-0366%2815%2900.../fulltext>. The GCPN was established by WHO's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse as a multidisciplinary and multilingual medium for investigating the proposed ICD-11 diagnostic guidelines for mental and behavioural disorders. To provide feedback and to participate in internet-based field studies, and for further information, see:

<http://www.globalclinicalpractice.net/>

### APA-IUPsyS GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH FELLOWSHIP

The APA-IUPsyS Global Mental Health Fellowship provides an opportunity for a psychologist to spend one year in Geneva, Switzerland, at the World Health Organization, in the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The fellow will focus on one or more issues related to the WHO Mental Health Action Plan. The deadline for applications is 30 September 2015. For more information, see:

<http://www.apa.org/about/awards/global-health-fellowship.aspx>

### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE: 3rd ICSU/ISSC/DFG YOUNG SCIENTISTS NETWORKING CONFERENCE

The 3rd ICSU/ISSC/DFG Young Scientists Networking Conference started in Menaggio, Italy on 25 May 2015 to deliberate on the role of science in our society. The third in the series of Future Earth Networking Conferences on Integrated Science, the conference took a broad multidisciplinary approach to the topic including aspects of science advice, research evidence, the Sustainable Development Goals, and communicating science. For more information, see:

<http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/icsu-calls-un-member-states-to-support-science-and-technology-for-the-post-2015-development-agenda>



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