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All National Members, Affiliates and Liaisons of IUPsyS are encouraged to circulate this and future monthly 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](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

## INTRODUCING IJP EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: ABIGAIL GEWIRTZ

Prof. Gewirtz assumed stewardship of the International Journal of Psychology, IUPsyS' most important vehicle for disseminating cutting-edge science of psychology, in July 2017. She takes up the role of Editor-in-Chief following the steady rise of the impact factor of the journal under the strong leadership of Prof. Rainer Silbereisen and his ever-supportive editorial board.

Prof. Gewirtz is the John and Nancy Lindahl Leadership Professor, in the Department of Family Social Science & Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota. The path to her current position took her through three continents, a fitting training history for the new Editor of a journal unequivocally committed to publishing high-quality, inclusive research produced by scholars from all parts of the world. Her fields of research focus are also well matched to the zeitgeist of our contemporary world. A leading expert on the psychosocial dimensions of trauma and resilience and the promotion of children's mental health, Prof. Gewirtz takes up the helm of the IJP at a time of great geopolitical shifts driven by a combination of widespread conflict, forced migration and deepening economic inequalities. Building on IUPsyS's vision of fostering a 'Psychology for Humanity', she will use the journal to address these challenges head-on without losing sight of the important theoretical, methodological and topical lodestars that constitute the leading-edge of psychological science globally.

After obtaining her foundational qualifications from University College London and Tel Aviv University, Prof. Gewirtz was awarded her PhD from Columbia University in 1997. Between 1997 and 2002, she served on the faculty of the Child Study Centre of the Yale School of Medicine, and in 2002, joined the University of Minnesota. Affiliated initially with its Department of Psychiatry, and then its Institute of Child Development and Department of Family Social Science, Prof. Gewirtz took up directorship of the University's Institute for Translational Research in Children's Mental Health before assuming her endowed research professorship in 2015. During this time, she has led a number of national and international research projects and collaborations funded by several prestigious grants.

This ground-breaking work has been reported in over 60 high-impact journal articles and book chapters and presented at over 100 workshops, conferences and symposia. She is currently the Principal Investigator on the After Deployment, Adaptive Parenting Tools (ADAPT), Ambit Network, and Center for Resilient Families projects. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Department of Defense, the ADAPT project is a web-enhanced parenting programme for families with a parent returning from active military duty. The Ambit Network is a Community Services and Treatment Centre established to

increase access to psychological services for children and families affected by traumatic events throughout Minnesota, through the development and evaluation of evidence-based interventions. The Center for Resilient Families/CRF is a nationwide center to provide training in evidence-based parenting programs for providers serving families affected by a range of traumatic stressors. Both CRF and the Ambit Network are federally funded centers of the USA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

Prof. Gewirtz's research record, areas of specialization and international reach translate into the type of intellectual oversight and global vision required to steer the IJP into the next phase of its now 50-year-old legacy. For a comprehensive overview of her goals for the journal during her editorial tenure please see:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ijop.12440/full>



Professor Abigail Gewirtz





# IUPsyS' Global Footprint

## ICP2020

The 32nd International Congress of Psychology 2020 (ICP2020) will be held in Prague, Czech Republic. The Congress will take place from 19-24 July 2020 and will be organized around the theme "Psychology in the 21st Century: Open Minds, Societies & World".

Follow ICP 2020 on.

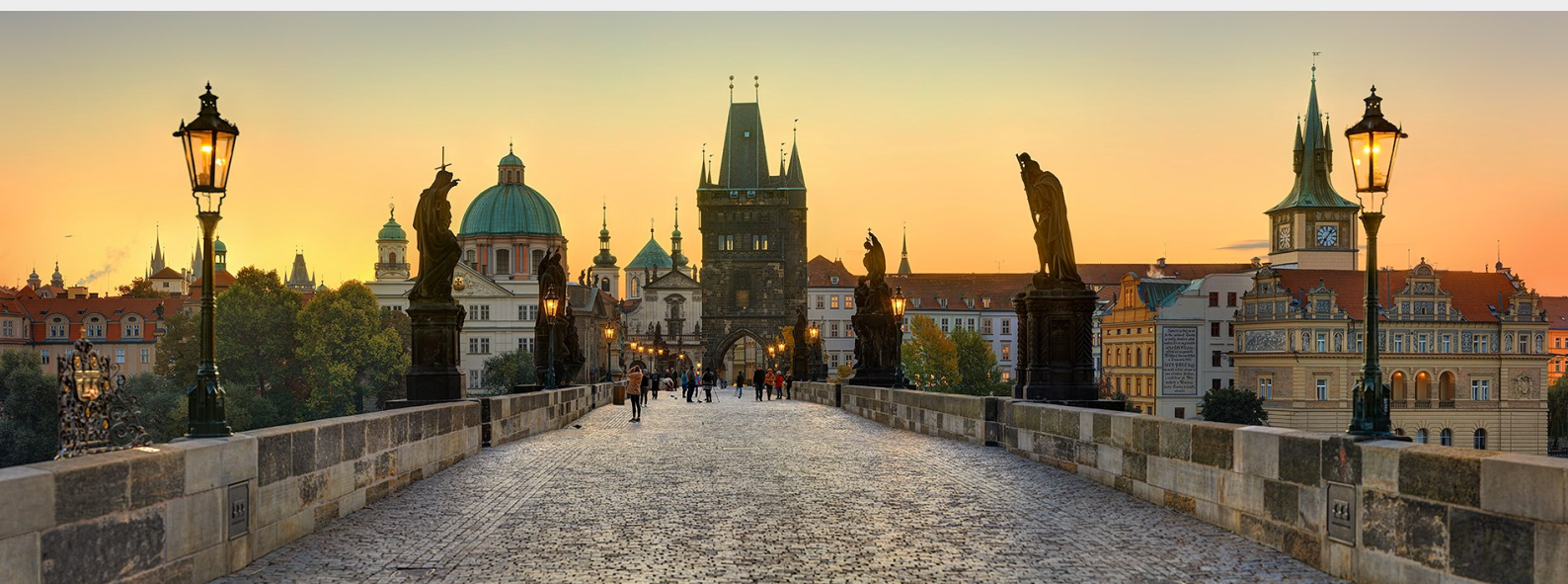
Facebook: ICP 2020/International Congress of Psychology, for more information and the latest news.

Website: <http://www.icp2020.com/>



PSYCHOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY:  
OPEN MINDS, SOCIETIES & WORLD

The 32<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Psychology  
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## News from National Members and Affiliates:

### 15TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGY

BY PAM MARAS, IUPSY S PRESIDENT ELECT

**“Us and Them”. Migrants, Refugees and Destinations Communities within which they settle.**



Saths Cooper and Pam Maras, President and President Elect of the International Union of Psychological Science, were pleased to convene an invited round table at the 15th European Congress of Psychology, in Amsterdam on Thursday 13 July 2017.

The Union is committed to science of the highest quality and to evidence based practice. As the international organisation for psychology, we would be remiss if we were not also committed to applying science to internationally human situations in appropriate ways: migration is such a situation. The round table brought together a panel of four international speakers from different disciplines who each considered research, practice and policy from their different perspectives.

**Matthieu Denis** from the International Social Science Council (ISSC) shared some of the conclusions emerging from ISSC studies and suggested possible approaches and priorities for further research on migration at the global level. Matthieu presented models that showed that interdisciplinary activity across science are likely to be the most effective way of science across the spectrum contributing to solutions to international issues.

**Abigail Gerwitz**, Editor of the International Journal of Psychology, drew on data that showed that in 2015, 244 million individuals lived in countries other than in those in which they were born, a 41% increase since 2000; almost 20 million of those are refugees, fleeing violence and other threats for safer places. Abigail considered what psychological science has contributed to programs to strengthen the resilience of immigrant and refugee families.

**Polli Hagenaaars**, a member of the EFPA Board for Human Rights and Psychology, described how Nazi and Soviet regimes turned people into numbers. Poli suggested that it is for scholars to seek those numbers and to put them into perspective. She proposed a need for an action-oriented approach, suggesting that psychologists are duty-bearers for human rights and, because of our knowledge and skills, psychologists have a responsibility for human rights and an ethical obligation to promote and defend them individually and through organisations to which they belong.

**Nora Sveaass**, from the University of Oslo, is a member of the United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture. Nora noted that in 2015 there were 65.3 million refugees in the world. Of these, 40.8 million people were in their own countries as internally displaced. She went on to explore political and social responses to this, drawing upon European examples of the rise of right wing, populist, nationalist, anti-Islam movements. She noted that the refugee crisis creates high political tension and temperature, and questioned whether the global refugee situation has created a space for a discussion and public discourse which until now has been unacceptable.

This round table was the start of a conversation about how psychological science and practice can have an impact. The human disposition to strive, to improve our lot, to achieve greater heights, to explore new horizons is one of civilization's greatest achievements. To date psychology has mainly focused on individual factors associated with being a migrant/refugee or on possible psychological processes that might underpin communities negative responses to the location of refugees/migrants in their midst. However, rates of migration are exceeding population growth. This and the fast-changing geopolitical order, technological revolution and the rise of nationalism especially in developed contexts along with worsening socioeconomic conditions have contributed to a significant increase in voluntary and involuntary migration; propelling people across the globe to migrate in the quest for a better future. The scale of the crisis cannot be addressed by individualistic approaches, rather they require a collaborative response by psychologists in collaboration with other disciplines.



President Cooper at the IUPsyS Invited Symposium



Polli Hagenaaars (EFPA Board for Human Rights and Psychology, Netherlands), Saths Cooper (IUPsyS President, South Africa), Pam Maras (IUPsyS President Elect, United Kingdom), Nora Sveaass (UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture, Norway).

## News from National Members and Affiliates:

### SRI LANKA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

BY SHAMALA KUMAR, PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



### THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: EXPERIENCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Just a week following the 25th anniversary of World Mental Health Day, the Sri Lanka Psychological Association (SLPA) held a seminar to shine a light on the contribution of psychology towards the development of mental health services. The keynote address of the event was delivered by IUPsyS President Saths Cooper. Saths Cooper is a renowned personality in mental health who played a key role in the advent of democracy, psychology and mental health during and post-Apartheid in South Africa.

"Psychologists can play a positive role in reducing the alarming increase of mental health issues amongst the general public. For years, the World Health Organization has been highlighting the rising global trend of depression. A multi-pronged strategy to reduce the debilitating consequences of mental health issues is required of all of us, and psychology is able and willing to play its part to ensure that society functions optimally," said President Cooper.

Always a strong advocate of mental health service development, the Director of Mental Health, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Dr Chithramalee de Silva stated that "mental health services in Sri Lanka have grown immensely over the past decade, however, it is critical for all mental health professionals to work together in delivering services to the people." The acting WHO Representative to Sri Lanka, Dr Olivia Corazon Nieveras, emphasised the importance of investing in diverse mental

health services and noted that "a recent WHO-led study estimates that depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy one trillion USD each year in lost productivity. Psychological issues do not discriminate between, age, gender, religion, ethnicity or social status - it can impact anybody. Open forums like this are an invaluable opportunity to take the message to the community and overcome the stigma that prevents people from accessing mental health services."

Organiser of the event, Dr Shamala Kumar from the SLPA interim committee, noted that "it is an honour for the psychology community in Sri Lanka to host Saths Cooper who has contributed immensely towards the development of mental health services around the world." She further stated that "today, with a few exceptions in teaching hospitals, psychological services are not available within the public health system. The Sri Lanka Psychological Association views this forum as an important step towards strengthening our public health system for which Sri Lanka is known worldwide. We appreciate the proactive and collaborative process of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine in promoting the role of psychologists in our country's development agenda."



Welcome Address by  
Dr Shamala Kumar



Participants at the event



Dr. Chithramalee de Silva, Director Mental  
Health, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and  
Indigenous Medicine



Dr. Olivia Corazon Nieveras, Acting WHO  
Representative to Sri Lanka



Keynote Address by Saths Cooper



## News from International Bodies

### UNITED NATIONS: OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



The UN Security Council convened its annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security on 27 October 2017. UN Women spotlights the voices and experiences of women from around the world, building and sustaining peace, mobilizing for justice and creating resilient communities. For more information, see: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-peace-security>

### WHO: MHGAP FORUM



The WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) aims at scaling up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders for countries especially with low- and middle-income. Recently, mhGAP Forum was held from 09-10 October 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. The two days of activities in the Forum provided an opportunity for a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss a variety of themes, all related to the implementation of WHO's Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020. Secretary-General Watts represented IUPsyS. The Forum also discussed commitments from various partners towards implementing the Action Plan. There are several resources available to help reduce the mental health treatment gap and to enhance the capacity of Member States to respond to the large burden of mental, neurological and substance use disorders. For more information, see: [http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/mhgap/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/mhgap/en/)

### INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL



The world's leading bodies of social and natural sciences have agreed to merge in 2018 and become the "International Science Council" to serve as the global voice for science. At this historic joint meeting on 26 October 2017 in Taipei, members of the two leading international science councils voted to merge, launching a process that will see the formation of a single global entity that unites the scientific community to advance all sciences as a global public good. The agreement took place at a landmark joint meeting in Taipei of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), with members voting overwhelmingly to form a new organization.

The new International Science Council brings together the current members of ISSC and ICSU, including 40 international scientific unions and associations, and more than 140 national and regional organizations such as academies and research councils. The organization will be launched at a founding General Assembly to be held in Paris, France in 2018. The final vote count in favour of the merger for ICSU was 97.6% and 90% for the ISSC. It came at the end of two days of intensive discussions on issues ranging from the new strategy, statutes and governance arrangements and the legal framework. IUPsyS, a member of both ICSU and ISSC, has played a positive role in the merger process. For more information, see: <https://www.icsu.org/current/news/the-icsuissc-merger-explained>



ISSC VP and IUPsyS President Cooper presents on high-level strategy #sciencemerger



Participants at the historic event