

2011 CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY

Opening Address

Professor Rainer K Silbereisen
President of the International Union of Psychological Science

Dear distinguished members of the Podium, Dear colleagues, Dear Ava Thomson:

As President of the International Union of Psychological Science, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2011 Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology. IUPsyS is the home of over 70 national organizations of scientific psychology who all share the same mission: we want psychology to play a role in a national and international discourse on the improvement of the human condition around the world.

A major function of IUPsyS is to propagate insights from psychological research and its application on the causes of happiness and the causes of despair; to put it more simply, to inform about ways to optimize the achievement of culture-typical roles for autonomy and self-realization. IUPsyS does this by organizing and supporting congresses and conferences, offering capacity building workshops, and disseminating the best of research in our journal and book series.

The aim of all activities, particularly our capacity building program, is to overcome inequalities in conducting basic, applied, and transformational research; inequalities in training programs, research facilities, and employment opportunities across regions of the world; and inequalities between generations of psychologists.

Our main lever with which to achieve these aims is increasing the visibility of psychological research and promoting the evidence arising from its findings; thereby increasing the reputation of psychology within science, among the public, and in the eyes of policy makers. This also means that we need the best talent and greatest efforts from all in the field - for the common good, and for a psychology we can be proud of.

The Caribbean Regional Conference is likely to become a trigger event and a trade mark for the move towards a better regional networking and international representation. I have already seen your enthusiasm, and I am happy that IUPsyS is involved and able to help a little. On a personal note, I was especially interested in learning about the role of the large Diaspora from the Caribbean region. Part of my own research is related to Diaspora migrants from other regions of the world, so perhaps we can collaborate on this in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you the best of professional success and the very best of friendship among like-minded psychologists from so many countries. I hope you enjoy the conference.

Rainer K. Silbereisen