

# International Union of Psychological Science

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# Bulletin

#### IUPsyS' Global Footprint

- Introducing Germán Gutiérrez, President-Elect of IUPsyS
- Introducing Amanda Clinton, Treasurer of IUPsyS
- Against the Odds, ICP2020+ Succeeded

#### News from National Members and Affiliates

- The Colombian	College of Psychologists	

# News from National International Bodies

United Nations - International Women's Day	
World Health Organization - The WHO Bulletin	
International Science Council - ISC Newsletter	



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

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 GERMÁN GUTIÉRREZ, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF IUPSYS



Germán Gutiérrez

Germán Gutiérrez studied psychology at the National University of Colombia (NUC) and obtained his Ph.D. in Behavioural Neuroscience from the University of Texas at Austin, USA. He is currently an Associate Professor at the NUC. He has been Director of the Animal Learning and Behaviour Laboratory (since 2001), Psychology Graduate Coordinator, Chair of the Department of Psychology, and Associate Dean for Research at the School of Human Sciences. He was project author and coordinator of the master's and Ph.D. programs in Psychology at NUC. He teaches introductory psychology and behavioural processes (i.e., Learning, Motivation) and graduate seminars on Learning and Behavioural Evolution.

He has served as President of the Colombian Association of Psychology Faculties, Vice-President of the Colombian College of Psychologists, Delegate for Colombia to the IUPsyS Assembly, President and Treasurer of the International Society for Comparative Psychology, Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations, and Member of the Executive Committee of IUPsyS. Gutiérrez has been a reviewer for the Ministry of Education of Colombia to evaluate undergraduate and graduate programs seeking accreditation. He also has extensive experience in scientific publications as Chief Editor of the Latin American Journal of Psychology and Member of the Editorial Boards of twelve psychology journals in Latin America. He has peer-reviewed articles for over twenty international journals in the behavioural and biological sciences.

Gutiérrez has been a visiting professor in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, México, Perú, and the USA. He has supervised over 50 honours theses and graduate theses and dissertations. He has published over 120 articles and chapters on the evolution of behaviour and learning, the history of psychology, and the status and development of psychology in Latin America, in scientific journals and other publications. He received the National Award for Research in Psychology from the Colombian Society of Psychology. During the last decade, he has worked with leaders in Latin America to promote an atmosphere of collaboration that recognizes the importance of advancing organized Psychology in the region, seeking to create programs and strengthen initiatives to promote the growth of national associations representing psychologists in each country. He actively participated in the workgroup of the International Project on Competences in Psychology. He has also coordinated the Capacity Building meetings organized in Colombia and Cuba under the aegis of IUPsyS and in collaboration with other organizations such as IAAP and the Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP).



# **IUPsyS' Global Footprint**

Those meetings served as a platform for cooperation on specific plans and projects, contributing to the development of psychology in the region. One of those projects is the Observatory of Psychology in Latin America (www. observatoriopsi.org), a website that collects information on different indicators of the development of psychology in this region, analyzes that information, and serves as a hub to facilitate connections among psychologists in Latin America and between that region and the rest of the globe.

As President-Elect of IUPsyS, Professor Gutiérrez understands the importance of the Union to support initiatives by members to strengthen the role of psychology at national and regional levels, both as a scientific discipline and as a profession. It is essential for societies globally that psychology becomes a relevant interlocutor for governments and NGOs on health, wellbeing, human development, and other relevant social issues. This can only be achieved if the needs and current status of psychology worldwide are better understood and reliable information on how psychology can impact societies is available for analysis, adaptation, and replication. Professor Gutiérrez seeks to collaborate with affiliate organizations to close the gaps between psychological science, public policy, and social programs within this context. Finally, he is convinced that psychology can play a significant role as a hub science connecting many disciplines to promote a more integrative explanation of behaviour. This approach will lead to a more robust psychological science for the future.

# INTRODUCING AMANDA CLINTON, TREASURER OF IUPSYS



Amanda Clinton

Amanda Clinton is the first female Treasurer of the Union. Amanda Clinton, M.Ed., Ph.D., is the Senior Director for the Office of International Affairs at the American Psychological Association (APA). Prior to joining the APA, Amanda served as Professor of Psychology at the University of Puerto Rico where she specialised in cultural adaptation, early childhood, social-emotional development, and the neuropsychology of bilingualism. Amanda is a licensed psychologist and a credentialed school psychologist with experience in community clinics, paediatric hospitals, public schools, academic settings, and public policy. Amanda completed an APA/AAAS Congressional Fellowship in the office of Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) where she helped write the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016 (passed as 21st Century Cures). Amanda's scholarly work includes publication of the text, "Integrated Assessment of the Bilingual Child," and numerous peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, as well as Associate Editorship of both the Journal of Educational and Consulting Psychology (JEPC) and the Interamerican Journal of Psychology. Amanda has won several prestigious awards, including a Fulbright Scholarship and SPSSI Educator/Mentor of the Year. Amanda earned her master's degree at the University of Washington and her doctoral degree at the University of Georgia.



# **IUPsyS' Global Footprint**

# AGAINST THE ODDS, ICP2021+ SUCCEEDED



What a year it was for all of us! Psychologists all over the world had their minds distracted from their regular teaching and research routines. Many of us did our best to help where help was needed the most (Gutierrez et al., 2021; Barbarin et al., 2021), doing their best to merge the roles of professionals and responsible citizens. Amazingly, COVID-19 did not stand between us and the psychological science, in fact, the pandemic wave provoked an unprecedented burst of COVID-relevant studies and during lockdowns, many of us managed to write more than ever before.

Still, socialising, teaching, and yes, the conference life did suffer. The Czech team which diligently prepared the ICP2020 for Prague, Czech Republic, watched the COVID-19 prevalence around the world and regularly consulted with the IUPsyS governance, primarily through the liaison, Ann Watts. As time and the pandemic progressed, not one but three different ICP congresses were prepared for, starting from (1) a massive regular face-to-face event in Prague, challenging the numbers of the greatest ICPs in history, then (2) a novel type of a hybrid event accommodating both those who were willing and able to venture to Prague or stay in their homes, and finally, (3) after the somewhat clairvoyant, yet wise (even in retrospect) decision was made to make everything virtual, the congress morphed again, to its final, fully virtual yet still full-bodied mode. The ICP 2020 was conceived back in 2012 - yes, that was the time of the first bid to host the ICP in Prague, under the leadership of the late Dr Miloslav Šolc. We presented the bid to the Assembly at the ICP in Cape Town. For the motto, we chose "Open minds, open societies, and the world". We certainly had not anticipated that when the time arose, the motto acquired a whole new dimension of "openness and closeness" as most of the world became closed, under lockdown at some point. Paradoxically, during the open discussion of our bid in South Africa, some critics very strongly shrugged our willingness to stream some sessions who would have imagined a decade later we shall stream them all?

We overcame the odds and organised an event unprecedented not just in its format but in many aspects by the quality of its contents and some quantitative parameters. Never before, had the ICP hosted participants from 107 countries. The organisers met the foreign participants "more than halfway" by adapting the program into three time-zones. Never before was the ever-expanding field of psychological science covered by 19 State of the Art lectures, in addition to a wide choice of 112 Keynotes and 60 Invited Symposia. The six conference days from 18-23 July 2021 were filled with a rich program covering 42 thematic fields in all usual formats, impressive numbers and a total of 3,840 participants. The organisers did their best as they invited participants from around the world, having very much in mind the idea of inclusiveness and diversity.

In addition to traditional formats, the Congress also included 10 Roundtables and six Workshops. One of the innovative formats was the "Know Your Host" workshop. It was moderated by Martina Klicperová and Daniel Heller (unfortunately, originally engaged Robert Fulghum as an originally planned additional guest could not take part).



# **IUPsyS' Global Footprint**

Martina and Dan introduced the participants to the psychology of Czechs and Czechness with respect to various cultural, historical, and political aspects. We would like "Know Your Host" to become a new tradition, a workshop presented by every next host that will offer the participants an authentic and cogent experiences of the host country or region.

Finally, ICP2020+ also provided another form of a series of Emerging Psychologists' Programme courses. It was brilliantly designed and organised by Irena Smetáčková with generous help of its former hosts. This program introduced a selected group of 42 young psychologists to each other, provided them with cooperative projects and specially tailored courses and kept them engaged two years before the ICP2021+ - but even beyond, as far as we know, this group of talented young people still stays in touch.

A lot of work was done behind the scenes, which regular participants may not be aware of. Starting with the international and multidisciplinary Scientific Committee which comprised of 42 thematic working groups. Its members sent invitations, recruited distinguished speakers, and then, importantly, peer-reviewed over 10,000 abstracts (some had to be evaluated repeatedly, whether for content reasons or because the participants withdrew and then reregistered or simply updated their abstracts). An incredible load of work had to be processed by the PCO Computer Systems Group and the congress Secretariat. The many COVID-19 unknowns and dynamics and the primary concern for the safety of all participants caused the planned Congress to be a in a perpetual transformation process. The Congress was a success, none of the fears of possible malfunctions materialised. It was not just due to the professionalism and luck but also multiple system safeguards, doubled systems and backups of power and connectivity. Nothing was left to luck.

All the professional staff were hidden to the regular attendants, only the speakers had the opportunity to hear the calm reassuring voices counting down the broadcasts.

Last but not least, the Congress profited from steadfast and kind leadership of Stanislav Štech and a continuing support by IUPsyS governance, mainly by wise and experienced Pam Maras and Saths Cooper, and resourceful Ann D. Watts. As much as this virtual event was successful, we are hoping that the next ICP may be a warm face-to-face event. Hope to see you in 2024.

#### References

- Gutiérrez, G. et al. (2021). A Global Perspective on Psychologists' and Their Organizations' Response to a World Crisis. Revista Interamericana De Psicología/Interamerican Journal of Psychology, 55(2), e1713. https://doi.org/10.30849/ripijp.v55i2.1713
- Barbarin, O. et al. (2021). <u>Psychological Science and COVID-19:</u> <u>An Agenda for Social Action 2021</u> | AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ORTHOPSYCHIATRY 91 (3), pp.412-422



# **News from National Members and Affiliates**

# THE COLOMBIAN COLLEGE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS



The Colombian College of Psychologists (Colpsic) is a union entity that represents the professional interests of Colombian psychologists acting as the legitimate spokesperson before the different powers, instances and organisms of the State and Government of Colombia. Recently, through its National Public Policy Commission, the Colombian College of Psychologists organised five thematic committees for the psychologists' union in public policy: mental health, school coexistence, prevention of sexual violence, parental practices, and working conditions and salaries of psychologists. These committees comprise 28 researchers and consultants. They are currently building a policy brief in their work area based on:

- A review of indicators of the value chain of the implementation of the national and sectional government;
- Open forum with colleagues in different regions of the country;
- A review of the relevant literature on the subject, the context, and the Colombian population;
- Mapping of the interest, influence, and position of the identified social and political actors.

From this, the deployment of lobbying strategies with the national congress and the high-level government is expected to create laws and regulations that consider the voice of psychology professionals and the scientific knowledge of the discipline. In the same way, a political communication strategy is being worked on by each committee that addresses the following objectives:management of the committees

- Disclosing to the public the results of technical and political management of the committees
- Creating discussion scenarios with the collegiate for accountability and enriching the schools' proposals.
- Interacting with the academy and different civil society organisations to create networking and promoting achievements.



#### International Union of Psychological Science

Established in 1889

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# **News from International Bodies**

#### **UNITED NATIONS**



# **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

# 🔘 International Women's Day

Psychology's Global Voice, IUPsyS, fully supported International Women's Day on 8 March 2021. IUPsyS stands against all discrimination including by sex and gender identity. IUPsyS will continue to promote women's empowerment worldwide and will challenge gender stereotypes, bias, gendered actions, and assumptions. Full details of the initiative may be viewed **here**.

#ChooseToChallenge

#IWD2021

# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



#### THE WHO BULLETIN

The WHO Bulletin is one of the world's leading public health journals. It is a peer-reviewed monthly journal with a special focus on developing countries, giving it unrivalled global scope and authority. The Bulletin is one of the top public and environmental health journals and full detail may be accessed **here**.

#### INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL



#### **ISC NEWSLETTER**

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils. It is the only international non-governmental organization bringing together the natural and social sciences and the largest global science organization of its type (https://council.science/). The latest newsletters of the International Science Council brings you the latest on their activities and may be viewed here.