

In Memoriam Kurt Pawlik (1934-2022)
Three Tributes from Former Officers

Kurt Pawlik was undoubtedly one of the most remarkable, dedicated, and indefatigable promoters of psychology, both as a science and a profession. His achievements attest for a sustained and ardent mode of thinking, fully turned towards the international dimension of our discipline.

I became a member of the IUPsyS Executive Committee at the time of the International Congress of Psychology that took place in Brussels in 1992, at the outset of Kurt's presidential mandate. I learned much from the interactions I had with him during his years as President, and then Past President of the Union.

Across his career, and well-illustrated in his IUPsyS contributions, Kurt was committed to promote an ambitious international view of psychology, by supporting the implementation of international projects sponsored by the Union, some of them funded by ICSU and ISSC. He eagerly advocated the exploration and documentation of what he termed "the psychological dimensions of global change".

Kurt also defended the regional development of psychology in forms adjusted to the specific needs of particular countries and regions. This took the form of Regional Congresses, which were scheduled between the Union's regular quadrennial international congresses. The first was launched with his guidance in 1995 (Guangzhou, China). Under his leadership, capacity-building initiatives complemented the Regional Congresses, in particular the Advanced Research Training Seminars (ARTS), in collaboration with our sister organizations, IAAP and IACCP.

During his mandate, Kurt also supported initiatives to promote and illustrate the role of psychology in a multidisciplinary scientific environment. His actions contributed to making our discipline more visible and meaningful in the scientific concert at a time when other sciences began to express increasing demands to include psychological knowledge into account to address societal issues. Kurt's presidential era was also characterised by the strong implication of the Union's EC members in the governing bodies of umbrella organizations like ICSU and ISSC. In 1998, he was elected President of the ISSC. One of his most noticeable initiatives and invaluable accomplishments as the Union's Past President was the volume he co-edited with Mark Rosenzweig, *The International Handbook of Psychological Science* (Sage, 2000).

Through all his accomplishments in the service of the Union, Kurt Pawlik remains one of the most eminent and faithful ambassadors of psychology in the scientific community and society at large.

Michel Denis
President (2000-2004)

In my view Professor Kurt Pawlik was the first, and for decades, the most important ambassador of psychology after WW II, with a German scientific background, in his understanding of psychology and an outreach to the entire world of scientific psychology. He utilized his great leadership talents to develop a special character for the many international scientific organizations he served in governance roles over the years. He was a builder of

coalitions across political and cultural borders and divides. I had the pleasure to follow him in a few of his roles, and I will always remember him as a brilliant negotiator and mover.

Rainer K. Silbereisen
President (2008-2012)

Michel Denis and Rainer K. Silbereisen have well captured the importance and scope of the contributions of former Union President Kurt Pawlik. I concur fully with each of their tributes. I add a few complimentary observations and reminiscences.

My initial collaboration with Kurt began in 1988 following the selection of Montreal, Canada as the venue for the 1996 International Congress of Psychology. Kurt was then the IUPsyS Secretary-General, and I was the 1996 ICP Secretary-Treasurer. Of necessity, and to my good fortune, our respective roles compelled sustained collaboration. I was the beneficiary of Kurt's great competence as a teacher and valued mentor.

This partnership continued during his tenure as Past-President (1996-2000) and my initial service as the Union's Secretary-General. Kurt was instrumental in developing my knowledge of the Union's operations. He also fostered an understanding of both the structure and the dynamics of the main international bodies in which the Union participated.

Kurt was both charming and demanding. He did not hesitate to impose his high standards when he was able to do so. Similarly, he was a vigorous advocate for the policies that he espoused. In both instances, he was very persuasive. Nonetheless, he was responsive to debate and able to listen and to be influenced by other perspectives – as long as they were well reasoned and articulate!

His convivial nature was most evident on social occasions. This occurred in formal events that called on his well-honed diplomacy and perceptive interpersonal skills. Informal settings brought out the full range of his compassion, humour and genuine interest in the experience of others.

As my colleagues noted, Professor Kurt Pawlik was a distinguished scientist as well as being dedicated and effective leader. It was a privilege to accompany him on a few stages of his long journey.

Pierre L-J Ritchie
Secretary-General (1996-2012)