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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

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.

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INTRODUCING AVA THOMPSON, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF IUPSYS



Our new Secretary-General, Ava Thompson, has a long history of contributions to organised psychology at the regional and global levels. Dr. Thompson served two terms as an elected member of the EC and was instrumental in supporting Union activities, especially in capacity building; for example, she co-led the establishment of supporting leadership in regional groupings, including in the Caribbean, Africa, and the Asia Pacific regions. Dr. Thompson has the experience and professional and personal qualities to lead the IUPsyS Secretariat in meeting the Union's mission to serve humanity.

Education: Ava D. Thompson earned a PhD in Clinical Psychology, with a Minor in Industrial & Organisational Psychology from Wayne State University (Detroit, Michigan). Her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology is from the same institution. Dr. Thompson completed her undergraduate education at Loras College (Dubuque, Iowa) after matriculating from the College of The Bahamas with an Associate's Degree in Psychology.

Current Positions: She is currently an Associate Professor in Psychology at the University of The Bahamas, where she has served as a full-time faculty member since 2000. Her teaching focus include child and adolescent well-being, diversity in psychology, global psychology and human rights and has resulted in the development of multiple indigenous courses. Dr. Thompson is also a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and the Founding Executive Director of The Bahamas Institute for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (since 2004), where she continues to provide

Founding Executive Director of The Bahamas Institute for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (since 2004), where she continues to provide clinical services while supervising early career professionals, collaborating with professionals in other disciplines, conducting research, and managing project development and evaluation.

Past Positions: At the University of The Bahamas, Dr. Thompson has held several administrative positions, including Head of Department for Psychology, Sociology & Social Work (2006 – 2008) and Coordinator of the Psychology Programme (2000 – 2005; 2016 – 2020). She coordinated the development of the country's first Bachelor's Programme in Psychology that was launched in 2005. Dr. Thompson has served on the Institutional Review Board and was a Senator in the University's inaugural Academic Senate. In addition to serving on other institution-wide committees on governance and strategic planning, she was Chairperson of the Task Force on Research, served on national committees (e.g., Urban Renewal Committee, Ministry of Education Special Committee, UNESCO National Committee), and represented the University internationally.

Scholarship: Recent and current scholarship include cultural diversity in psychology, integration of human rights into Psychology Education and Training (PET), COVID-19 & Psychology Organisations and global psychology. She has served as a reviewer for multiple journals and is currently a member of editorial review boards of several journals, including the Caribbean Journal of Psychology, Interamerican Journal of Psychology (IJP) and Frontiers in Psychology. Dr. Thompson has also conducted research for government ministries and agencies in The Bahamas.

Psychology Associations Engagement: Dr. Thompson worked with colleagues to re-establish The Bahamas Psychological Association and served as president from 2000 – 2010 and Past-President for 6 years (2011 – 2017). Since that time, Dr. Thompson has served as Co-Chair of BPA's Professional Practice Standards Committee and worked to advance licensure in the country, including representing BPA on the Health Professions Council (2017 – present). In 2019, she began writing grants for BPA, was appointed Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Project Coordinator and represented the organisation on the National Technical Working group at the Ministry of Health.

She represented BPA in the region from 2006 – 2010 to develop Caribbean Guidelines for Psychosocial Practitioners in HIV Care. Dr. Thompson also

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chaired the 2011 inaugural Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology (CRCP) and then co-chaired the Steering Committee to establish a Caribbean organisation of psychology before becoming the Founding President of the Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Association (CANPA; 2013 – 2014) and then serving as Past-President for four years (2014 – 2018). Since CANPA's inception, she has served as Co-Chair of the Psychology Education & Training Committee (2013 – present) and as Chair of the Presidents & Elders Council (2018 – present), she is a member of the Executive Council.

As BPA's first delegate to the IUPsyS General Assembly in 2012, Dr. Thompson was elected to the Executive Committee (2012 – 2016) and was re-elected for a second term (2016 – 2020+). During her tenure, she served on the Capacity Building Committee, served as Liaison to the Latin American Congress of Psychology (2015), represented the Union at the UN, chaired the Presidential Task Force to the United Nations and actively participated in strategic planning activities. Dr. Thompson's continued role as an IUPsyS representative (e. g., Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Science – 2021+) complemented her early role in co-facilitating ICP capacity building workshops in Cape Town (2012) and Yokohama (2016).

IUPSYS FORUM: PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FOR GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD

On November, 30, 2022, IUPsyS convened an historic forum entitled, Psychological Science Diplomacy© for Global Public Good. The forum was a first step in developing a framework for policy linked to the Unions' strategic goals and policy directions (including on the Union responses to crises and emergency situations). This framework will be uniquely based upon 'Psychological Science Diplomacy'.

The objectives of the forum were:

1. To introduce the field of Psychological Scientific Diplomacy (capacity building)
2. To present findings of the Policy on Human Crises membership consultation
3. To provide psychological perspectives on scientific diplomacy
4. To explore mechanisms for action, sustainable capacity building and collaborative engagement.

The forum consisted of a video presentation on Scientific Diplomacy from Sir Peter Gluckman, President of the International Science Council (ISC), as well as a question and answer section with Dr Vivi Stavrou, ISC Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS) and Senior Science Officer. A consultative summary report regarding written feedback from the Union's membership on the Union's Policy on Human Crises was presented. This was followed by oral Members Statements on Psychological Perspectives on Science Diplomacy. This forum allowed the Union to ensure that our members contribute to this vital work which is a collaborative venture. The Union looks forward to further engagement and associated actions.

ICP2024



It is a pleasure for me to invite you to the 33rd International Congress of Psychology (ICP) that will take place in the beautiful city of Prague from July 21 to 26, 2024. Many of us were looking forward to the ICP in Prague in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to delay and switch to a completely virtual format. The ICP2020+ Congress was still a success thanks to the flexibility and ingenuity of the Organizing Committee and support by the IUPsyS. Dedicated members of our Scientific Committee brought together almost 4,000 active participants and first-class scholars. We were proud that even under the most difficult circumstances, the Congress was a success.

The same Prague organizing team now has the opportunity to finally welcome you all in person and facilitate the face-to-face meetings of top scholars, researchers, and curious students. A lot has been written about the beauty of Prague. Moreover, its location between Leipzig and Vienna is a reminder that here we touch the historical roots of psychology.

It is both an honour and an unusual opportunity for me to once again invite you to come to the stage of global psychology and be a part of the upcoming scientific feast.

Please follow us on the [website](#) and social media [#icp2024/@icp2024](#)

We look forward to having you in Prague in July 2024 for the psychology experience of a lifetime.

Stanislav Štech

News from National Members, Regional Members and Affiliates

COLOMBIA - 75 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY IN COLOMBIA

By: Ruben Ardila, ruben.ardila@outlook.com
National University of Colombia

Professional psychology in Colombia turned 75 on November 20, 2022. On that day, the Institute of Applied Psychology of the National University of Colombia was created, which was the foundation of a psychologist's career in the country. On July 9, 1948, the Institute was formally opened. At the beginning of 1949, the first psychology students entered and received their title on November 28, 1952. There were 11 people, and the title received was "Licenciado en Psicología" after four years of university study. It was the first time psychologists graduated in Colombia and Latin America. A psychology training program had been founded a year earlier, in 1946, at the University of Chile. However, the first students graduated later than the Colombian students due to the longer duration of the degree (four years in Colombia, five years in Chile). So, the psychology program at the National University of Colombia has the honour, privilege, and responsibility of being the first training program for psychologists in the area.

Mercedes Rodrigo (1891-1982), a renowned Spanish psychologist and refugee from the Spanish Civil War, was central in creating the psychologist career in Colombia. She was the first Spanish woman to study psychology. She studied in Geneva (Switzerland) with Édouard Claparede (1873-1940). In Madrid, she carried out a brilliant career as a psychologist alongside the most outstanding figures of Spanish psychology of the time, including José Germain. She arrived in Colombia in August 1939, invited by the Rector of the National University of Colombia to organise the Psychotechnics Section at the Faculty of Medicine to create university entrance exams. Mercedes Rodrigo came with her sister María, an outstanding musician, and with José María García Madrid (1907-1992), who was her closest collaborator throughout her life.

After several years of work in psychometrics, measurement and evaluation, selection, developmental psychology, educational psychology, and other areas, Mercedes founded the Institute of Applied Psychology, one of whose functions was teaching with a view to a future career as a psychologist.

Mercedes Rodrigo, her sister María and José María García Madrid were in Colombia for 11 years. They then moved to Puerto Rico, where they continued successful careers. So, the life of Mercedes Rodrigo covers three different stages in Spain, Colombia, and Puerto Rico. In all these, she carried out high-level work and made decisive contributions to psychology, pedagogy, and the social context.

The National University of Colombia's psychology program was elevated to the Faculty of Psychology category in 1957 at the initiative of Beatriz de la Vega (1925-2021), a psychologist who graduated from the first promotion of professionals in this discipline. In 1965, after a general reform of the University, the Faculty became the Department of Psychology, part of the Faculty of Human Sciences. In 2014 it created the Doctorate in Psychology. At the National University of Colombia, the Department of Psychology offers a 5-year career course in psychology, a Master's in Psychology, and a Doctorate in Psychology.

Currently, there are nearly 140 undergraduate programs in psychology in Colombia, approximately 116 Master's and Specialisations, and 10 Doctorates in Psychology. All of these have as their background, the program founded at the National University of Colombia, at the initiative of Mercedes Rodrigo, and with the help of several physicians, psychiatrists, educators, philosophers, and the institution's support. These 75 years have been of growth, diversification, and positioning psychology in Colombia as a science, profession, and contribution to society's quality of life.

INDONESIAN PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION



The Struggle of Indonesian Psychology to be Regulated in Law
Dr. Andik Matulesy, Psikolog & Anrilia E M Ningdyah, Ph.D., Psikolog

The drafting of the Psychological Act started in the era of the Chairman of the Indonesian Psychological Association (HIMPESI), Dr. Rahmat Ismail, in 2000.

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The effort was then continued by Prof. Dr. Seger Handoyo as Chairman since 2014, who also requested support from a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives, who is also member of HIMPSI: Desy Ratnasari. This was necessary because the proposed bill can only be done by the House or the Government.

The draft of the Psychological Act that has been designed by the HIMPSI Team and was then brought to the Legislative Body of the House of Representative of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR, in the Indonesian acronym). One of the results of this effort was the change to in name to the Draft of Law on Psychological Practice, which was then included in the National Priority of Legislation Program in 2020 and 2021. Intense discussions and meetings with various relevant ministries were held with HIMPSI organisational bodies, universities, psychology services personnel in the National Police and the Indonesian National Army, psychology service providers and other relevant institutions. On July, 7, 2022, the Plenary Meeting of the House of Representative of The Republic of Indonesia passed the Draft into the Psychology Education and Services Law. On August 3, 2022, the President of the Republic of Indonesia passed it into Law number 23 of 2022. Indonesian psychologists are now regulated under this Law, after waiting for approximately 63 years since the formation of HIMPSI.

This Law aims to improve the quality of psychological education and psychological services, and, to ensure psychological well-being of the Indonesian society. The law also provides protection and legal certainty to psychologists, clients, and the public. It also provides regulation and guidance in the relation between universities and professional organisations, as well as regulatory/legal certainty in providing psychological services.

JAPANESE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



The Japanese Psychological Association (JPA), established in 1927, is a scientific and professional psychology organisation with more than 8,000 domestic and international members, including researchers, practitioners, educators, and students, and with a mission to advance psychological science as a broad discipline covering from experimental to applied psychology.

On September 2022, the 86th annual convention of the JPA was held as a hybrid event, partly online and partly in-person in Tokyo. The voice for requesting an in-person meeting was getting bigger, after having an online-only convention for the past two years due to COVID-19. Until 2021, the convention was a university-led event, in which one university takes the responsibility to plan, organise, and hold the convention. As the association grows bigger, it was getting more difficult for one university to be in charge, in addition to many hardships around COVID-19. Thus, it was decided that the executive board take charge and collaborate with the JPA offices and event organisers to hold a hybrid convention.

There are advantages to both online and in-person conventions. One of the biggest merits of online conventions is that those who are otherwise unable to attend due to geographical, health, financial, or other reasons can attend. On the other hand, one of the biggest merits of in-person convention is spontaneous meetups and discussions. One of the in-person events was the poster sessions during this convention, and because the JPA attracts a wide range of audiences from broad disciplines within and outside of psychology, we found it particularly important for the attendees to go around the sessions, have conversations with other attendees, and see different perspectives, which all lead for psychologists to develop ideas and for the discipline to move forward.

The number of attendees were smaller than pre-COVID-19, however, this was the very first in-person convention experience for some students, and their reactions of finding much fascinating research were spectacular. We believe that the hybrid convention was a sign of hope for many psychologists for overcoming COVID-19 and starting a new era of psychology.



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News from National Members, Regional Members and Affiliates

SLOVENIAN PSYCHOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION



The Slovenian Psychologists' Association (SPA) was founded in 1954 and is a nationwide professional association linking psychologists from all areas of practice. Currently, there are seven divisions (Division of Work and Organizational Psychology, Division of Psychologists Working in Social Care, Division of Sport Psychology, Division of Educational Psychology, Division of Psychologists Working in Occupational, Traffic and Sports Medicine, Division of Psychotherapy and Psychological Counseling, and Division of Social, Applied, Anthropological, Intra- and Interdisciplinary Psychology), the Ethics Committee, the Committee for Psychodiagnostic Instruments, and the Expert Witness Committee for Family Psychology. Since 2012, SPA has been accredited by EFPA to award the European Certificate in Psychology – EuroPsy. The Association also publishes an open-access scientific journal, **Horizons of Psychology**.

In September 2022, a new presidency was elected for the next four years:

- Prof. Dr. Anja Podlesek – President,
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanja Kajtna – Secretary General,
- Petra Mikolič – Vice President for Organizational Affairs, and
- Maja Gaspari – Vice President for Financial Affairs

The focus of the work of the SPA in the coming years will be on the adoption and implementation of the Psychological Practice Act. Slovenia is one of the few European countries with no law regulating psychological practice. Based on the Resolution on the National Programme for Mental Health 2018–2028, the first strategic document published in Slovenia that comprehensively addresses mental health, the current Ministry of Health has committed to adopt the law by the end of 2023.

In July 2022, SPA organized the 17th European Congress of Psychology in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Nine hundred forty-five delegates from 70 countries attended the congress and gave 977 presentations in 21 scientific tracks. The central theme of the congress emphasised that psychology is one of the hub sciences that has a significant impact on other sciences and professions and accordingly has many obligations to address individual problems and societal challenges.



From left to right: Prof. Dr. Igor Papič, Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia, Prof. Dr. Mojca Jurišević, Chair of the ECP 2022 Scientific Programme Committee, Prof. Dr. Christoph Steinebach, President of the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations, and Marko Vrtovec, Chair of the ECP 2022 Organising Committee and the former President of the SPA, at the ECP 2022 opening ceremony.



International Union
of Psychological Science

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News from International Bodies

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



WHO TRAINING FOR EMERGENCIES

“Today’s health emergencies are increasingly complex. We live in a globalized, urbanized and connected world where people, vectors and goods are constantly on the move. These movements amplify the threats to our health from infectious hazards, natural disasters, armed conflicts and other emergencies wherever they occur. Past crises have taught us that even the most qualified personnel require continued learning to respond safely and effectively to these 21st century threats. We need a ready, willing and able workforce – a workforce for excellence – that can be called upon to help save lives, reduce disease and suffering, and minimize socio-economic loss to affected communities and countries. In October 2018, the Programme established a new Learning and Capacity Development unit and launched its first-ever Learning Strategy to guide all training and learning activities across the country, regional and global levels” (WHO). Full details may be viewed [online](#).

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 NEW PODCAST SERIES - SCIENCE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The ISC has launched a new five part podcast series entitled, Science in Times of Crisis. “Over five episodes, airing every Thursday in December, this 5-part-series will provide detailed accounts of the complicated relationship between geopolitics and science, asking what we can learn from the past, the challenges of the present, and what diplomatic solutions can we begin implementing in the future to ensure a more resilient science sector.” Further details may be accessed [online](#).

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. The latest newsletters of the International Science Council bring you the latest on their activities and may be viewed [online](#).