Bringing Attention to Canadian Scholars' Participation at the 2026 International Congress of Applied Psychology

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On behalf of the International Relations Committee of the CPA

At the International Congress of Applied Psychology, held in Florence, Italy, from July 21st to 25th, 2026, current and former members of the Canadian Psychological Association's International Relations Committee (IRC) gave keynote addresses, presented talks, and led roundtables. On July 22nd, Lindsay J. McCunn, PhD (current co-Chair of the IRC and a Canadian Delegate to the International Union of Psychological Science's General Assembly) virtually presented an invited keynote for the International Association for Applied Psychology's Division 4 (Environmental Psychology). Her talk, titled "Environmental Psychology 'at the Table': Pathways to Collaboration and Innovation," explored how environmental psychology is evolving—and how the field might expand its influence by connecting more deliberately with other disciplines, sectors, and scales of inquiry.

Drawing on recent trends in environmental psychology research, Dr. McCunn noted the field's growing emphasis on sustainability, conservation, climate change, and the relationship between nature and mental life. At the same time, she highlighted the continued importance of environmental psychology's foundational interests in built environments, design, neighbourhoods, spatial cognition, place attachment, and the everyday settings in which people live their lives. She emphasized that these perspectives are not competing priorities: understanding environmental challenges requires attention to the feedback loops between global issues and local, human-scale realities.

Dr. McCunn also considered how the field can become more visible and accessible by creating diverse pathways into environmental psychology. She described her recent edited book documenting the varied educational and professional routes taken by environmental psychologists, from architecture and urban planning to neuroscience, health sciences, social ecology, and environmental appreciation. Such pathways, she argued, can encourage environmental psychology to become more integrated into the curricula and professional networks of neighbouring disciplines—and can help future environmental psychologists develop the skills needed to work across sectors.

Overall, the keynote offered an expansive view of environmental psychology as a field uniquely positioned to connect people, places, disciplines, and scales of analysis. Whether addressing climate change and ecological grief, access to nature, urban stress, healthy buildings, lighting,

wayfinding, or the design of everyday public spaces, environmental psychologists have an opportunity to bring evidence about human–environment relationships into conversations where important decisions are being made. Dr. McCunn's central message was both practical and aspirational: when decision-makers understand what environmental psychology is, what it has contributed over the past seven decades, and what it can offer today, the field is more likely to be invited to the table—and to make an even greater difference to tomorrow's policies and plans.

Saba Safdar, Head of the Canadian National Panel and Canada's Delegate to the General Assembly of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), co-chaired an invited roundtable with Vaishali Raval from the U.S., "The Union of Psychology: Integrating Past, Present, and Future Toward a Global Discipline." The roundtable brought together Professor Germán Gutiérrez of Universidad Nacional de Colombia, President of IUPsyS; Christine Roland-Lévy, Professeure Émérite, President of the French National Council of Psychological Science, and Past-President of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP, 2022–2026); and Ole Tunold, Secretary General of the Norwegian Psychological Association.

The discussion focused on how psychology can become a genuinely global discipline amid geopolitical polarization and persistent inequalities in whose knowledge and perspectives shape psychological science. The presenters considered three interconnected questions: What global challenges can psychology help address? Whose knowledge counts, and how can psychology value diverse ways of knowing rather than privileging predominantly Western frameworks? And how can IUPsyS sustain international scientific collaboration amid growing geopolitical tensions? The discussion highlighted the role of IUPsyS in connecting national psychological communities, broadening participation across regions and intellectual traditions, and maintaining scientific dialogue in a changing geopolitical landscape.

ICAP 2026 also featured a strong Canadian presence among its invited speakers. Canadian transversal keynote speakers included Léo-Paul Dana (Dalhousie University), Janel Gauthier (Laval University), E. Kevin Kelloway (Saint Mary's University), Gary Latham (University of Toronto), Eddy Ng (Queen's University), Donald Saklofske (Western University), Christian Vandenberghe (HEC Montréal), and Bruno Zumbo (University of British Columbia). Their presentations addressed a wide range of issues central to applied psychology. Gauthier examined ethics, moral disengagement, and the maintenance of moral standards; Kelloway addressed labour unions and workplace mental health; Ng considered how diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives can create meaningful social impact; and Zumbo traced developments in measurement validation, including the implications of emerging digital technologies. The other Canadian keynotes extended this range through work on entrepreneurship and applied psychology (Dana), goal-setting and organizational psychology (Latham), psychological assessment (Saklofske), and workplace and organizational research (Vandenberghe). Randy Tonks (Camosun College, BC), himself an IUPsyS Executive Committee member, also presented in a symposium featuring members of the IUPsyS Executive Committee. Finally, Marc A. Rosen (Ontario Tech University) was featured as an opening keynote speaker, bringing an interdisciplinary perspective linking engineering, sustainability, and global challenges.

Taken together, the Canadian contributions demonstrated the breadth of applied psychology across domains and levels of analysis, connecting individual ethics and assessment with

workplaces, organizations, diversity and inclusion, measurement, entrepreneurship, mental health, and sustainability. In this sense, the Canadian presence at ICAP complemented the roundtable's broader discussion of a global discipline, one capable of bringing diverse areas of psychological knowledge into dialogue while addressing complex challenges that extend across institutions, communities, and national borders.