

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The XXXII Interamerican Congress of Psychology in Guatemala

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The 32nd Interamerican Congress of Psychology (Guatemala, June 28-July 2, 2009) held under the auspices of La Sociedad Interamericana de Psicología (SIP - Interamerican Society of Psychology) was attended by 2000 persons representing 35 countries. Ten of them were from Canada.

Guatemala has a relatively small number of psychologists (5,000 with 1,650 certified to practice). Under the leadership of Dr. Maria del Pilar Grazioso, Guatemalan psychologists organized one of the best SIP congresses we ever attended.

The main theme was "Psychology: A Path Toward Peace and Democracy." There was a special focus in the scientific programme on health and quality of life, social violence and human rights, gender, political-legal constructions, effects and consequences of poverty, impact of natural disasters, organizational and labour challenges, education and training, and assessment.

Most of the presentations were in Spanish with simultaneous English translation available for invited keynote presentations. We were the only invited keynote speakers from Canada. JB presented on the positive well-being of immigrants and refugees, and JG spoke about the relevance of the *Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists* for peace and democracy in today's changing world.

The social and cultural events, high on ceremony, were attended by ranking government and other officials.

Former CPA Honorary President, Albert Bandura, received the Interamerican Psychologist Award for lifetime achievement and a standing ovation during the opening ceremony held at the National Theater. The next day, he received an honorary doctorate from *La Universidad del Valle de Guatemala*.

The conference president, Dr. Maria del Pilar Grazioso, and Guatemalan psychologists were also honoured during a ceremony held at the *Palacio de la Cultura*. After the end of the Guatemalan civil war in 1996, the government created a statue that symbolizes the peace treaty. Each day, they place a new white rose on the statue to symbolize the peace. On special occasions, a person is allowed to change the rose to honour their contributions. This ceremony honoured the incredible work of Dr. Grazioso in developing psychology in Guatemala. She

was named an Ambassador of Peace, one of the highest honours for a Guatemalan citizen.

The APA hosted a reception in honour of SIP at the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Carlos Merida Museum of Modern Art which were opened just for this reception.

The College of Psychologists of Guatemala held a reception at the ex-convent Santo Domingo where a local musical group played marimba, the traditional instrument used to create the music of Guatemala, and guests had the opportunity to dance.

Psychology in Latin America is growing rapidly. There is a lot to learn from our colleagues in Central and South America and opportunities for collaboration are plentiful. We encourage you to join SIP and to attend the next Interamerican Congress of Psychology to be held in 2011 in Medellin, Colombia.

Founded in 1951, SIP leadership includes members of North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean. The official languages of the association are Spanish, English, Portuguese and French. Since 1967, the SIP publishes *The Interamerican Journal of Psychology*. For membership application, go to the SIP homepage (<http://www.sipsych.org/english/home.htm>).

A Visit to Rwanda: Enriching Perspective, Enriching Skills

ADIJA MUGABO, Masters Candidate in the Counselling Psychology Program at the University of Western Ontario



Experiencing life as a foreigner has been an incredibly eye-opening opportunity. As a Master's Candidate in Counselling Psychology, spending the summer in Rwanda has profoundly enhanced my ability to empathize with what life is possibly like for immigrants back home in Canada.

Living in such a divergent environment for the first time, certain things have entered my mind that I have never had the opportunity to fully process until now. Being Rwandan is part of my heritage. My father was born in

Rwanda and came to Canada in the 1970's. Like many immigrants who have been in Canada for an extended period of time, he fiercely preserved his identity as a Rwandan while still feeling very Canadian. However, I've always

felt that coming from such a small country in East Africa is kind of like having secret; very few people in Canada can share this experience. Membership was limited to a few people I knew through my father and we gathered and conversed in a way that no one else could. But during those two months, being Rwandan wasn't a secret anymore. It was a way of life that I could share with millions of people. I was no longer the expert in my milieu of all things Rwandan. I was a novice surrounded by a wealth of learning opportunities.

This realization has made me

very excited to commence my internship in the fall and to begin my practical training as a counselling psychologist. Working with immigrants is an undeniable part of the practice experience for Canadian mental health practitioners. People born outside of the country now make up 20% of the population, and the number of immigrants in Canada is expected to reach somewhere between seven and 9.3 million by 2017. Each one of these individuals who seek psychological services brings their own culture with them, offering a portal into another set of life experiences that can enrich the psy-

chologist's empathic capacity and broaden his/her worldview. Many will be provided the opportunity to share their 'secret' with the psychologist - a secret which is an integral to their functioning and growth.

Indeed, this travel experience has not only shaped my view of the globe while abroad but I believe it will enhance how I relate to other Canadians who have come from afar and my appreciation of how they balance where they've been and where they hope to be in the future.

Ethical Guidelines for Supervision: Another First for CPA

DR. JEAN PETTIFOR, CPA Committee on Ethics



Ethical Guidelines for Supervision in Psychology: Teaching, Research, Practice, and Administration was adopted by the Canadian Psychological Association Board of Directors on February 7, 2009. The Committee on Ethics, chaired by Carole Sinclair, responded to a need expressed by CPA members for ethical guidelines for supervision. A sub-committee (Jean Pettifor, chair; Michelle McCarron; Greg Schoepp; Annie Stark; and Don Stewart) prepared the draft document after widespread consultation.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide an ethical framework for maintaining an effective and mutually respectful working alliance between supervisor and super-

visor that enhances the learning experience. Psychologists recognize that supervision is a specialized area of psychological activity that has its own foundation of knowledge and skills. The Guidelines document has several unique features.

First, it applies to all areas of psychological activity, thus expanding their usefulness beyond today's emphasis in the supervision literature on only clinical practice.

Second, it primarily addresses relationships rather than specific good practice standards, such as how many hours of supervision are required, or the content of supervisory meetings.

Third, supervisees and supervisors are considered to be mutually responsible for maintaining ethical relationships. Both contribute to the success or failure of the relationship and the quality of the learning experience. At the same time the power differential is acknowledged and the supervisor is seen to have the greater responsibility in resolving difficulties.

Fourth, all the guidelines are linked to the four ethical principles of the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists: Respect for the Dignity of Persons, Responsible Caring, Integrity in Relationships, and Responsibility to Society. This structure has been established by CPA in previous documents, and indicates that guidelines represent applications of the Code to special areas of practice rather than a proliferation of stand-alone documents.

The Guidelines are already in use for educational purposes in Canada. They also have been received positively by psychologists in other countries, and were presented at a symposium on supervision at the European Congress of Psychology in Oslo in July.

We believe that the Ethical Guidelines for Supervision in Psychology is another first in Canadian Psychology's contribution to the ongoing discourse on ethical practice.

The Guidelines can be downloaded from the CPA website at <http://www.cpa.ca/cpsite/userfiles/Documents/COESupGuideRevApproved7Feb09revisedfinal.pdf>