

CHAPTER 9

IAAP Congresses in the 21st Century

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INTRODUCTION

After one and a half century of existence, psychology has become one of the more active and plural fields of knowledge, and it offers immense resources in all areas of human activity where there are possibilities for bettering man's intervention. This can be accomplished through the advancement of knowledge about the subject, or by perfecting the objective techniques to be applied to objective circumstances.

In the year 2001, the world entered the twenty-first century, which may be characterized by the start of the information age, with increased communication and interaction worldwide. Today, globalization is marked by an increase in capital and labor mobility. On the other hand, the twenty-first century has already experienced many events that have put the stamp of violence on the world's history. Some examples are US September 11 attacks (2001), the invasion of Iraq (2003), the Madrid train bombings (2004), the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (2004), the independence of Montenegro (2006), the Independence of South Sudan (2011), the Arab Spring (revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain, etc., 2011), the worst Ebola epidemic in recorded history in West Africa (2014), and the United Nations summit on Climate Change (2015), to mention only a few of these well-known events. We are living, *velis nolis*, in a conflictive and problematic century.

In all situations, psychology contributes in different ways when individual behavior is essentially involved. In each situation, psychology can contribute to understanding, explaining, and giving support to human behavior through intervention or therapy; changing the conditions under which the operation is carried out; or even providing a more objective cognition that will mediate between the intervention and its final success.

Throughout this century, our disciplinary field has enlarged its scientific basis, always looking for a broader empirical ground in interventions and greater usefulness of their results, while maintaining the highest respect for the dignity of the people participating in them.

Everywhere, the cultural values and the idiosyncratic nature of human societies has to be combined with an endless effort to build psychological interventions on a dual foundation. One depends on the historical laws and rules governing each society; and the other, on the knowledge of the natural laws governing the living and physical world in which man operates.

At the beginning of the new century and the new millennium, psychology continues to be a multifaceted discipline that combines in its conceptual construction, both natural and social concepts in a continuous effort to adapt each person to his/her personal world, and multiply his/her possibilities for happiness in it.

Nowadays, psychology continuously tries to combine cross-cultural perspectives with neuroscientific and psychobiological requirements. The International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) has maintained its loyalty to these multifaceted requirements that any human intervention demands. It acknowledges that its interventions are dealing with human beings, that is, with natural and evolved beings who exhibit behavior guided by a free and purposeful mind and try to build their own individual personalities. The IAAP congresses have echoed all these peculiarities, and in the following pages, we present its more recent history.

25TH CONGRESS: SINGAPORE 2002

After the conference held in San Francisco (1998), the 25th International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) was held in Singapore July 7–12, 2002. The theme of the event was “Making Life Better for All: A Challenge for Applied Psychology.” The congress brought psychologists from all over the world to a vibrant and rapidly developing region. With its rich heritage of traditional wisdom from different theologies and philosophies, which makes it quite unique, Singapore is an island of diversity that captivates one, where people from different religious beliefs live peacefully together in respect and harmony. The heterogeneity of its culture is a challenge for psychologists, interested in the diversity of language and religion, individual differences, and behavior in a multicultural context.

THE SCENARIO

Singapore has the peculiarity of being both an island and a country. It is a combination of Western and Eastern styles that has now become a flourishing country that excels in trade and tourism. It offers a model to other developing nations in the region. According to legend, the name of Singapore comes from the Sang Nila Utama, prince of Srivijaya (Indonesia). He was out on a hunting trip when he came across an animal that he had never seen before. Interpreting this as a good sign for him, he founded the city where the animal had been spotted and called it “The Lion City” or Singapura.

Known as “Sea Town” a long time ago, it has now become the largest port in Southeast Asia and one of the world’s greatest commercial centers. All Asian cultures have, in one way or another, a presence in this independent state. Modern Singapore was founded in the nineteenth century (1819), thanks to the contribution of politics, trade, and a British colonial lieutenant-governor known as Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. He landed in Singapore on January 29, 1819 and negotiated a treaty with the local rulers. Henceforth, Singapore was established as a trading station. It was then ruled by the five kings of ancient Singapura. Its strategic location in the Malay Peninsula made it an ideal

trading region. During the British Empire, it became a prosperous city, attracting immigrants from different countries like China, India, the Malay Archipelago, etc. However, Singapore's prosperity suffered a major blow during World War II, when it was attacked by the Japanese army in December 1941. It obtained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1963 and became a sovereign nation in 1965. Despite political difficulties, a hinterland, and a lack of natural resources, the country developed rapidly as an Asian Tiger economic being, based on its workforce, tourism, and external trade. Its progress over the past five decades has been remarkable, and it is one of the economic giants in the region. It blends together Malay, English, Chinese, Indian, and Arab cultures and religions. Moreover, it offers historical treasures from the past with the beauty of its older buildings, as well as its values and traditions, which have survived throughout its long history. Economic development and the continuous growth of foreign trade have made it possible for scientific and cultural development in which health and medical institutions have reached very high standards, and psychiatric and psychological specialties are at the level of the most advanced Western countries. This state of affairs made it easy to organize a psychological congress at the end of the last century. In the preceding decades, advances in the field of clinical psychology were taking steps in the right direction (Tan, 2002).

THE ORGANIZATION

The Singapore Psychological Society (SPsS), founded in 1979, took an active part in the organization of the congress. To prepare the congress, the SPsS worked closely with the countries within the regional grouping known as the Asia Oceania Psychological Association, which was inaugurated in Singapore in 1992 for the First Asian Conference in Psychology. The initial signatories of this grouping included the national psychology associations of Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India, and Singapore. Other national psychology associations had been invited and expressed a desire to join this regional grouping. The outstanding addresses, symposia, and research papers that were presented to keep up with psychology's rapidly expanding basic knowledge and the many new and important advances in professional practice. The creation of SPsS was the starting point of the emergence of psychological technology and culture in society. Its main aim was to contribute to the advancement of academic research and a variety of interventions. F. Y. Long and other Pioneers promoted significantly the development of the field in a short time. Since its Foundation, the SPsS devised several lines of action in various fields, based on (a) stimulating public interest and acceptance of psychological services within society; (b) the development and consolidation of psychology in higher education; (c) encouraging SPsS members to reach a higher level of academic and professional qualifications; (d) establishing relationships with professionals from other disciplines; and (e) the development of a code of conduct and necessary competencies for psychologists' professional maturity. The result has been an interesting development and a discipline that will improve and safeguard the well-being of individuals and their communities.

A very distinguished personality took on the responsibilities of organizing a conference. Dr. Elizabeth Nair (b. 1949), a very active person closely connected with Western research groups and clinical institutions, after receiving specialized training in the UK, strongly fostered work and health psychology in her country. In addition, she promoted group dynamics and organizational psychology as the means to enhance the technical developments of the national industry. She became the president of the IAAP

Congress, and her efforts were crowned by success. IAAP, the society that was implementing the congress with the assistance of the SPsS, was on that occasion chaired by a well-known US professor, Dr. Charles D. Spielberger (1927–2013).

Spielberger, professor of clinical psychology at South Florida University, had become a world authority in the empirical research on anxiety, anger, and stress, creating authoritative evaluation instruments, internationally applied for their study. He also chaired the American Psychological Association, the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), and other specialized institutions and research groups.

Both personalities, Dr. Spielberger and Dr. Nair, were able to implement a large conference that attracted numerous participants from all over the world. An international advisory panel, including very distinguished IAAP members and specialists from Australia, Japan, Korea, and various Western countries, helped them in planning the conference.

The scientific program included 54 invited addresses, 884 individual submissions for oral and poster presentations, and 130 1–2 hour symposia in 12 concurrent sessions. A total of 1,659 persons from more than 66 countries participated in the congress. Most of them came from Japan (206, 13.7%), the US (180, 12%), Singapore (160, 10.6%), Australia (151, 10%), the United Kingdom (64, 4.3%), Germany (61, 4.1%), Hong Kong SAR (57, 3.8%), India (50, 3.3%), Indonesia (50, 3.3%), Thailand (43, 2.9%), Canada (39, 2.6%), South Africa (37, 2.5%), the Netherlands (34, 2.3%), ROC Taiwan (27, 1.8%), and Spain (27, 1.8%). The conference took place at the Suntec Convention Center in Singapore, a center with all sorts of facilities for an event like this (IAAP, 2002).

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

The scientific program of the congress was designed on the basis of the activities of the 14 divisions existing at that time. It included at least 54 keynote speeches, about 130 symposia, 433 oral communications, and 451 poster presentations. Some relevant keynotes in the congress were centered on topics such as cultural change (G. Hofstede, Netherlands), evolutionary psychology and the new economy (N. Nicholson, UK), brain injury (K. Thickpenny, New Zealand), violence against women (K. Calhoun, US), personality tests (F. Cheung, Hong Kong), women and peace-making (D. Bretherton, Australia, and L. Yung, Vietnam), welfare (A. Hatakeyama, Japan), academic underachievement (M. Lebedina-Manzoni, Croatia), eating behaviors and disorders (Y. Jin, Korea), aging protocol (R. Fernández-Ballesteros, Spain), linear combinations of traits (T. Hoshino, Japan), leadership and strategic human resources management (A. Sharma, US), evaluation of law assumptions of a juvenile court (M. Frias-Armenta, Mexico), centers of excellence (D. Bhanthumnavin, Thailand), performance enhancement (S. Gordon, Australia), a verbal communication on driving (K. Zhang, China), and mind and quality of life (P. Jones, Australia), among others.

Nearly 300 symposia took place during the congress. Let us mention here some of those included in the different divisions. In Division 1, Work and Organizational Psychology, for instance, were the following themes: safety leadership research (S. Yule, UK), leadership in different contexts (D. Craig, US), psychological contracts (Z. Aycan, Turkey), boundaries around cultures (M. Peterson, US), and cultural change (M. Erez, Israel), among others. In Division 2, Psychological Assessment, there was one on the Raven Test (J. Raven, UK). In Division 3, National Development, some of the topics were social representations of knowledge (J. Liu, New Zealand), identities in female students in postapartheid South Africa (N. de Lange, South Africa), violence

against children in South Africa (S. Cooper, South Africa), social psychology around the world (J. Adair, Canada), and national unification and psychological impact (Germany, Korea) (R. Silbereisen, FRG). Environmental Psychology (Division 4) addressed restorative environments (T. Hartig, Sweden), whereas the Educational Division (Division 5) incorporated a variety of topics, such as self and social relationship in Confucian society (K. K. Hwang, Taiwan), or more common questions such as values in adolescence (A. Knafo, Israel).

Other subjects can also be found in the program, some related to clinical and health specialties, such as clinical and community psychology (J. J. Sanchez Sosa, Mexico) in Division 6, sexual health in developing countries (M. Montero, Mexico), depression (M. C. Barreda-Hanson, Australia), anger and health (E. Greenglass, Canada), and models of health behavior change (R. Schwarzer, Germany) in the Health Division (8th). In Applied Gerontology (Division 7), people had the opportunity to discuss tales of the Western Pacific (J. Aros, Guam) or aging (D. Park, US). There was an important group of people interested in Sport Psychology (Division 12) – for instance, sport psychology (T. Morris, Australia) or emotion in sports (Y. Hanin and C. D. Spielberger, US).

In Economic Psychology (Division 9), a symposium examined money ethic scales (T. Li Ping Tang, US); in the topic of Psychology and Law (Division 10), problems such as children's testimony (R. Bull, UK) were considered; and in Political Psychology (Division 11) among other topics, there were some of current relevance, such as commitment to politics (K. Boehnke, Germany) or from apartheid to democracy in South Africa (S. Cooper, South Africa). Last but not least, Traffic Problems (Division 13) were present, with symposium on travel behavior (L. Steg, Netherlands), as well as Applied Cognitive Psychology (Division 14), where applied questions such as visual attention when driving (G. Underwood, UK) had a place in the program.

The classic general psychology areas included issues such as applications of cross-cultural psychology, biological basis of human nature and cultural influence, capacity building for national psychology, ethical issues, gender at work, the history of applied psychology, and psychology in Africa.

There were also numerous “paper sessions,” a clear indication of the relevance of individual attendance and the interest of applied professionals, instead of the more common presence of academic research and university dedication (Nair, 2003).

Eventually, organizers arranged a special event, mainly centered on a highly personal lecture by Dr. Philip Zimbardo on his experiments on social psychology, which had a profound impact on a wide audience.

26TH CONGRESS: ATHENS 2006

The 26th International Congress of Applied Psychology took place in Athens, Greece, July 16–21, 2006. It was hosted by the Hellenic Psychological Society and the Association of Greek Psychologists under the auspices of the IAAP.

Greece has an extraordinary relationship with modern psychology. It is the land of the old precursors of many fields and theories used in recent time. Many of its ancient pioneer philosophers like Plato, Democritus, and Aristotle have laid the foundations of theory on the psychic life, and applied psychology also had its origins in Theophrastus' “Characters” (c. 300 BCE). After taking a leap in time, we arrive in 1926 to witness the creation of a psychological laboratory at the University of Athens by an old student of W. Wundt, Theophilos Voreas (1873–1954), but only in 1979 did the

profession of psychologist receive government approval. More important, still in the early nineties, “all psychologists in Greece have studied at foreign universities, since no recognized Greek institutions provide independent psychology degrees” (Houssiadas, 1992, p. 184). But in the following period, there was important development of both in science and in professionalization. Moreover, this country offered an attractive site for participants because of its rich cultural history and its mosaic of natural beauty, islands, and Mediterranean climate.

THE SCENARIO

Athens is widely known as the cradle of Western civilization and the birthplace of democracy. The city still preserves the vestiges of its history through ancient mythologies, Roman, Byzantine, and modern monuments. Consisting of a large city center, an urban district, and a metropolitan area, Athens presents a marvelous blend of historical and modern features. In this context, psychology is directly linked to Hellenic history because the very word “psychology” comes from Greek, like many other terms. The history of psychology begins with the systematic study of psychological phenomena in the seventh century BC by Hellenic philosophers. Strategically located at the crossroads of three continents (Europe, Asia, and Africa), Greece is a maritime country that was influenced by different cultures and developed theories of life evolution.

Definitively, this 26th International Congress gathered in Athens, one of the best cities in Europe that still offers a splendid panorama under the shade of the Acropolis and a significant past history that widely contributed to contemporary art and culture. At the crossroads of cultures and three continents, Athens always presents the visitor with an example of understanding and good will among people, in order to build a better world together.

THE ORGANIZATION

The congress was organized, as mentioned, by the Hellenic Psychological Society and the Association of Greek Psychologists, in close cooperation with IAAP, and it took place at both Divani Carvel and Athens Hilton Hotel. The congress was a great meeting that gathered leading scholars, academics, scientists, researchers, professionals, and students in order to exchange and share knowledge and results of research related to different fields of applied psychology.

The general theme of this congress stressed the contributions of psychology to the problems of individuals and society. James Georgas and Marina Manthouli were co-presidents of this event, representing the two aforementioned organizations that were responsible for the event. Both societies acted as local committee and gave support to the Scientific Committee of the congress. Some outstanding members may be mentioned here: S. Georgoutsakou, G. Kleftaras, E. Syngollitou, and F. Anagnostopoulos, among other Greek professionals and academicians.

Many other international associations collaborated in the success of the congress, including, among others, the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), The European Federation of Psychologists Associations (EFPA), the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP), the International Council of Psychology (ICP), and the International Society of Clinical Psychology (ISCP).

The personalities of the two local presidents were in fact combining two complementary approaches: a more theoretical perspective, with large international

developments, (the case of Georgas), and another approach more oriented towards local clinical activities and responsibilities (the case of Manthouli).

James Georgas (Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1934–2018) was a pioneering personality in Greek psychology and a widely known and respected researcher in international scientific fields. Head of department at the National University of Athens, he developed intensive research in the field of intelligence and family interactions, promoting diverse projects in cross-cultural theory and presenting many of his ideas in a well-known study on *Families across Culture* (Gari, 2019). Marina Manthouli was a group therapist and a clinical psychologist who was very active in professional work and the head of the Association of Greek Psychologists. The Scientific Committee of the congress, responsible for the scientific program, its general outline, and acceptance of collaborations, symposia, and sponsored exhibitions and cooperation, was co-chaired by Anastasia Efklides and Thalys Papadakis.

The opening address was given by Michael Frese (Germany, b. 1949), the president of IAAP at the time and a well-respected personality within the association in recent times. He has maintained a very active life of research and academic activities in a variety of institutions (Universities of Pennsylvania, Munich, Amsterdam, Singapore, among others). Among his main lines of research, we can highlight those that are focused on productivity and entrepreneurship, work psychology in African countries, and the perspectives of organizational activity in the horizon of globalization.

His speech was based on “What if applied psychology mattered in the world?,” a lecture related to his own studies on the development of “third world” societies through the social implementation of techniques and capacities mediating psychology. There was another speech from the Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information of the United Nations, who analyzed the topic of “Psychology and IAAP at the United Nations. Accomplishments and Future Directions.” The evening also included the presentation of the IAAP award to the well-known past president of the association Edwin Fleishman, a ceremony that had the general support of the participants.

As usual in this type of event, the program consisted of invited keynotes, state of the art and presidential addresses, organized symposia, and individual presentations combined in different sessions. Poster symposia, workshops, panel discussions, conversation hours with distinguished psychologists, and films/videos completed the activities offered to students and specialists from around the world. The official languages of the congress were English, French, and Spanish (IAAP, 2006).

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

Congress topics were classified according to the 16 IAAP divisions accepted at that time: Work and Organizational Psychology (V. E. Schein and K. Sinangil), Psychological Assessment and Evaluation (F. Van del Vijver), Psychological and National Development (U. Kim and Z. Aycan), Environmental Psychology (D. Canter and T. Carling), Education, Instructional and School Psychology (S. Volet and P. Nenniger), Clinical and Community Psychology (J. S. Sanchez and L. Rehm), Applied Gerontology (R. Fernández-Ballesteros and N. Abeles), Health Psychology (R. Schwarzer and E. Greenglass), Economic Psychology (C. Roland-Lévy), Psychology and Law (G. Koehnken), Political Psychology (K. Boehnke and T. Bliesener), Sport Psychology (M. Sorensen), Traffic and Transportation Psychology (R. D. Huguenin), Applied Cognitive Psychology (A. Lesgold), Students (P. M. M. Neves), and Counseling Psychology (F. T. L. Leong).

During the congress, some relevant keynotes focused on issues such as cultural geography (S. Ronen, Israel), personality assessment (F. Cheung, Hong Kong), self-efficacy

(G. V. Caprara, Italy), environmental risk (C. Vlek, Netherlands), emotions (R. Pekrun, Germany), aging and ethics (N. Abeles, US), illness cognitions (A. Kaptein, Netherlands), behavioral finance (T. Tyszka, Poland), post-conflict reconstruction for peace (M. Wessells, US), motivation and well-being (J. Duda, UK), driving with care and attention (G. Underwood, UK), sharing knowledge (F. Hesse, Germany), scientific publication (R. Wood, Australia), and sharing knowledge resources (W. Hesse, Germany).

More than 200 symposia were also organized. In Organizational Psychology, they were focused on applied and organizational psychology, with topics such as the following: teamwork skills in health care (N. Sevdalis, UK), health care improvement (T. Katz-Navon, Israel), work engagement (M. Salanova, Spain), self-regulation in the workplace (J. Vancouver, US), Iran organizational psychology (A. Neissi, Iran), perspectives on human capital and international collaboration (M. D. Hakel, US), advancing women's careers (R. Burke, Canada), among others. A symposium was also dedicated to Harry Triandis' intellectual contributions, convened by R. Bhagat (US), and at least two on leadership (both convened by B. Schyns, UK).

In Psychological Assessment and Evaluation, contributions focused on self-assessed abilities (T. Chamorro-Premuzic, UK), working in today's world of testing and measurement (B. Byrne, Canada), assessment of competencies in educational contexts (C. Spiel, Austria), and recent development in Internet testing – International Test Commission and IAAP (D. Bartram, UK). The quality of life of Iranian women (S. Mortazavi, Iran), European values: looking at similarities and differences (M. Ros, Spain), and parenting styles and close relationships and education in East Asia: psychological indigenous and cultural perspectives (U. Kim, Korea) were some of the key issues discussed in the Psychology and National Development Division. Discussions on Environmental Psychology were focused on topics such as cumulative risk and children's development (G. Evans, US), psychology's contribution to coping with climate change (E. Matthies, Germany), and values, beliefs, and environmental behavior (J. de Groot, Netherlands), among others.

Symposia in Educational and School Psychology concentrated on key issues such as mapping the development of mathematical skills and knowledge (C. Donlan, UK), coping in the educational context: learning and social and emotional outcomes (J. Lodge, Australia), the social dimensions of achievement motivation: Southeast Asian research (A. Bernardo, Philippines), culture and learning (F. Salili, Hong Kong), and what helps us to learn reading, writing, and counting? (M. R. Maluf, Brazil). Some contributions in Clinical and Community Psychology revolved around social skills, parental styles and coping in children and adolescents (M. C. Richaud, Argentina), ecology of children's emotions (V. del Barrio, Spain), Japanese psychotherapy and body–mind functioning (S. Harikuza, Japan), and significance and implications of the draft universal declaration of ethical principles for psychologists (J. Gauthier, Canada), among others. The discussions in the Applied Gerontology symposia were developed around two main issues related to psychological adjustment to the aging process (A. Fonseca, Portugal) and active aging (R. Fernández-Ballesteros, Spain), along with several other topics.

Symposia in health psychology mainly addressed questions such as the following: from adolescence to adulthood: stress and health-related outcomes from a cross-cultural perspective (F. Buchwald, Germany), practical advances in international health behavior (R. Resnik, US), social support and health (K. Noguchi, Japan), psychology first-aid in disaster situations, lessons learned (H. P. David, US), psychological aspects of disasters: research findings (E. Greenglass, Canada), health behavior change: the role of self-regulatory cognitions (A. Luszczynska, UK), and lifestyle changes and health self-regulation (B. Schuz, Germany), among others. In Economic Psychology, debates were organized around the issues of perception of competition and perception of economic competition in a

cross-cultural perspective (M. Fulop, Hungary), rational decision making and anomalies (T. Tyszka, Poland), or the love of money (T. Li-Ping Tang, US).

Symposia in psychology and law addressed three key issues: social influences on child and adult witnesses' memory reports (H. Blank, UK); credibility factors in the investigation, litigation, and adjudication of sexual assault cases (J. Goodman-Delahunty, Australia); and recent development in eyewitness research (L. Stromwall, Sweden). Some of the topics of symposia in Political Psychology were collective violence: reconstituting inter-group harmony (M. Harris Bond, China), peace psychology in Indonesia (H. Muluk, Indonesia), enduring empowerment and reflectivity on mass political actions (L. Naydonova, Ukraine), preventing violence and improving the relations between the Dutch (and other Europeans) and Muslim minorities (E. Staub, US), among others.

In Sport Psychology, symposia topics were delivering applied sport psychology services to elite athletes, teams, and coaches (P. Wylleman, Belgium), feminist sport psychology (D. Gill, US), and motivation research in physical activity (G. Roberts, Norway), in addition to others.

Symposia in traffic and transportation psychology involved discussions on key issues related to emotions, personality, and risk: implications for road safety (J. Mesken, Netherlands), and driver attitudes (T. Rothengatter, Netherlands), among others. Division 14 (Applied Cognitive Psychology) organized several symposia, dealing, among others, with culture, control and intentionality (J. Adamopoulos, US), understanding human error (I. Barshi, US), and E-psychology: the new evolution of psychology (A. Drigas, Greece). Division 16 (Counselling Psychology) presented symposia such as the psychology of working and social connections (F. Lopez, US), psychological applications on the Internet (A. Barak, Israel), and disruptive anger (H. Kassino, US). In Division 17 (General Applied Fields, according to the program), there were symposia such as psychology and policy orientation: an overview (M. Frese, Germany), international education and training and training systems for psychologists (I. Lunt, UK), and rewarding career opportunities applying the science of psychology (S. Donaldson, US), clearly oriented to the analysis and comprehension of the process of professionalization. Some of them were sponsored by IUPsyS, others by the American Psychological Association (APA), and some by IAAP itself, on certain topics (IAAP, 2006).

FINAL NOTES

From the perspective of applied psychology, the Athens congress meant a return to the cradle where psychology began as a scientific discipline. Greece is always an attractive site because of its rich culture and history, and its people's hospitality is well known around the world. Although the teachings of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato are far from the current literature in our discipline, it is true that the desire for rationality and the will to maintain scientific thought, motives that inspired the ancient Greek philosophers, continue to be the aspirations of contemporary psychologists.

27TH CONGRESS: MELBOURNE 2010

Let's see: Europe, North America, the Middle East, the Far East... How could the IAAP, with its universal vocation, not make the leap to the Australian continent? The 27th International Congress of Applied Psychology took place in Melbourne, Australia, July 11–16, 2010. The geographical location of Australia has always

shaped not only its relative isolation but also its rich social and cultural diversity. Psychology in Australia developed following the footsteps of what occurred in Britain, Europe, and America.

It is well accepted that the formal teaching and study of psychology began in Australia with the lectures on mental philosophy given by some professors educated in Europe, Francis Anderson and Henry Laurie. They were appointed to the philosophy chairs at the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne, respectively, in the 1880s (Buchanan, 2012). British empiricism, evolutionary biology and German physiological psychology seem to have been largely influential in the field at an early time. A first laboratory was established at the Melbourne Teachers' Training College in 1902; the center openly linked to the new scientific methods on which training and education should be based. Australian psychology has always been highly empirical. It expanded steadily during the 1920s and 1930s, and grew rapidly, particularly during the postwar period, and then reached maturity (Taft, 1982). In 1945 an Australian Branch of the British Psychological Society was created, which in 1966 became the Australian Psychological Society (APS) (Nixon, 1987). This point marked a new dawn for psychology in the country because it promoted a set of initiatives from a professional point of view and at the level of a scientific production. With over 21,000 members, the APS has as its main aim to contribute to the advancement of the discipline and profession for the benefit of members and the communities they serve. This admirable tradition has always tried to combine the initial humanism with the great richness and scientific rigor of present-day organizations.

ICAP 2010 in Melbourne was a kind of recognition and encouragement of the important achievements of psychology in the country, taking into account its diversity and integrative effort. Hosted by this society, in conjunction with IAAP, Melbourne ICAP 2010 attracted 3,381 participants from 67 countries.

The IAAP president was, not wholly surprisingly, another well-known Australian psychologist, Michael Knowles (b. 1936), a very active person in international psychology and an academic professor at Monash University, as well as a pioneer in the development of organizational psychology and management in his country.

The Congress was organized under the presidency of Professor Paul Martin (b. 1951, Weymouth, UK), director of the Research School of Psychology at the Australian National University and professor at the Griffith University and the Southern Clinical School of Monash University. He has done extensive and important research in the field of health and clinical psychology. He is also the first author of a handbook on applied psychology, edited under the sponsorship of IAAP (Martin et al., 2011).

Some important events took place at this congress, including the creation of a new division (Division 18: History of Applied Psychology), an awards ceremony, the Asian Task Force, the election of IAAP Fellows, and the election of new board members.

Among them, as usual, a new IAAP president was elected for the coming 4-year period. He was a well-known US psychologist, Raymond (Ray) D. Fowler (1930–2015), professor at the University of Alabama and a past chief executive officer of APA. He had a salient profile in clinical psychology, and in 1998 had initiated, with M. Seligman and M. Csikszentmihalyi, the movement of “positive psychology,” which would become highly successful.

Unfortunately, a serious illness would keep him from presiding over the 2010 congress and kept him from all directive activity. The president-elect, José M. Peiró, had to ensure the continuity of the life of the association

THE SCENARIO

With a spectacular natural environment, high quality of life, and huge diversity, Australia is a stable, democratic, and culturally diverse nation with a highly skilled workforce and one of the strongest performing economies in the world. This continent has many beautiful places to visit, and the city of Melbourne itself is remarkable for its large population and modernist style, as founded in 1835. It was the first capital of the nation, which in the 1920s was moved to Canberra. Situated at the south of the continent, on the coast, it has also a very lively and rich cultural and artistic life. Over the past 50 years, Australia has developed a highly diversified economy with considerable strengths, particularly in mining and agricultural sectors, as well as manufacturing and services, and it has become widely integrated within the countries of Eastern Asia, while it is, on the other hand, a founding member of the Commonwealth. Currently, it has many publicly run galleries, museums, and performance spaces, from the World Heritage listed Opera House in Sydney and world-class national galleries and museums in Canberra, to history museums and galleries in country towns. The rich Australian culture allows visitors to enjoy the country's performing arts groups, musicians, dance troupes, and theater performers displaying the energy and diversity of Australia's arts, and many are involved in international exchanges. Opera Australia and the Australian Ballet are two important aspects of Australian culture.

THE ORGANIZATION

In the years that preceded the congress, the IAAP committee and the Australian psychological association intensified the work on its preparation. Paul Martin, the president, was very active and managed to form a broad network of researchers and professionals who would support the convention. Regarding the general figures, 3,381 delegates registered for the congress, and an attendance on this scale meant that over 20 parallel sessions were required to accommodate the wide range of academic activities that had been planned. Keynotes and invited speakers, symposia and paper sessions, and forums and discussion groups would interest everyone attending the conference.

Its specific Scientific Program was organized by an experienced group of local experts under the chairmanship of Professor Michael Kyrios and with the support of a highly cooperative group. The group composition was as follows: Paul Martin (president, Organizing Committee), Michael Kyrios (chair, Scientific Program), Michael Knowles (president, IAAP), Lyn Littlefield (executive director, APS), Bob Montgomery (president, APS), Amanda Gordon, Lucy Krelle, Kate Moore, James Ogloff, Trang Thomas, Barry Whitmore, and Nicholas Voudouris.

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

The congress brought together more than 3,300 presenters from 67 countries and a wide variety of topics. It included over 100 state-of-the-art and other invited keynote addresses, over 200 symposia, almost 600 individual oral presentations, over 600 brief oral presentations, and over 550 electronic posters, etc.

The Opening Keynote was given by Professor Paul Slovic (US) from the University of Oregon, who specializes in decision research theory with a large group of scientists who analyze risks and menaces that may be involved in different social decisions.

His lecture, “The more who die, the less we care. Psychic numbing and genocide,” dealt with current questions such as refugees, natural disasters, and social catastrophes that require the attention of social scientists and different sorts of theoretical explanations.

A well-structured index allowed it to include a large number of individual presentations. There were different categories in this section: state-of-the-art presentations, presidential/divisional addresses, and invited keynote addresses. Let us briefly mention some of these interesting presentations.

Individual addresses by presidents or distinguished division members offer an interesting panorama of reflections and open questions. Division 1 (Organizational Psychology) included a global perspective of the field (J. M. Peiró, Spain), and some other problems presented by M. Frese (Singapore), R. Roe (Netherlands), S. Parker, (Australia), and G. Latham (Canada). In Division 2 (Assessment) the influence of the Internet (D. Bartram, UK) and other more localized questions (D. Iliescu, Romania; J. Hattie, New Zealand; and F. van de Vijver, Netherlands) examined the peculiarities of assessment in different societies. In Division 3 (Societal Development), there was a presentation by C. Kagitcibasi (Turkey) that questioned the relevance of psychology for social development. Division 4 (Environmental Psychology) presented reflections on methods (T. Hartig, Sweden) and climate change as problematic (J. Reser, Australia).

In the Educational division (Division 5), there was a global vision of the field (R. Burden, UK), with some other more detailed papers from other colleagues. Relevant topics in the Clinical Division (Division 6) were depression (L. Rehm, US), evidence-based psychotherapies (J. Norcross, US), community affordances (G. Pretty, Australia), and interactions among specialists. Other specialized papers dealt with gerontology (B. Knight), health (E. Greenglass), clinical (L. Rehm), sport (J. Hanin), economic psychology (T. Tyszka), traffic (G. Matthews), politics (K. Boehnke), students (K. Potocnik), and professional activity (A. Gordon), in certain cases also accompanied by other invited specialists. This set of presentations gave a wide and updated panorama of the world of applied psychology.

Last but not least, 37 highly distinguished researchers were invited to offer an “Invited keynote address” on a topic of their preference. Relevant members of the organization – P. Martin, M. Knowles, B. Montgomery, M. Kyrios – and of international psychology – B. Overmier, R. Silbereisen, K. Pawlik, R. Fowler, among others, and people representing cultural worlds like Mexico (Diaz Loving), Brazil (S. Koller), or Hong Kong (F. Cheung), and an important number of professionals from Australian psychology (A. Allan, M. Augoustinos, R. Bryan, S. Spence), among others, made it possible to combine significant personal interpretations with the coordinated group of the various members of symposia or the small paper on a topic from the area of short contributions. In fact, an extensive and rich scientific program of presentations was offered in 21 parallel streams for registrants to choose from, over the six days of the ICAP 2010.

Let us now turn to the symposium program, trying to select some that might be considered representative of the social or scientific tendencies of the moment. A distribution by divisions will help to present an interesting panorama of the field:

Division 1. In organizational psychology, general questions such as its theoretical directions (H. P. Sinangil) were combined with others such as emotions (H. Tse), bullying and harassment (P. Brough), developing leaders (D. Lane), shared leadership (J. Hoch and A. Michel), and trust in organizations (N. Gillespie).

Division 2. Mexican ethnopsychology (I. Reyes-Lagunes), international classification in rehabilitation (T. Oakland), measurement technologies (D. Bartram).

- Division 3.* Mental health recovery after tsunami in Thailand (J. Romano); quality of life, an intercontinental perspective (M. Frese); retirement transition and adjustment (B. Hesketh).
- Division 4.* Environmental psychology in New Zealand (T. Milfont), environmental problems and risk perception (J. de Groot), intervention in environmental psychology (S. Kraemer).
- Division 5.* Teacher motivation (A. Kilinc), social and emotional concepts in education (C. MacCann); student motivation (H. Watt), academic self-concept (F. Dumas), teacher development (P. Riley).
- Division 6.* Men and vulnerability (K. Cronan), a parenting program (S. Havighurst), prescriptive authority for psychologists (R. Resnik), families of children with disabilities (J. Reece).
- Division 7.* Sexuality among older people (M. McCabe), measures of aging in Japan (K. Renge and C. Pribyl).
- Division 8.* Insomnia in adults (S. Wilson), indigenous healing practices (T. Sodi), prevention of eating disorders (D. Franko).
- Division 9.* Money management (E. Kirchler), the tactile consumer (C. Jansson-Boyd).
- Division 10.* Offending behavior programs (A. Birgden), mental illness and policing (S. Thomas), a fair and impartial jury (N. Rees).
- Division 11.* Giving peace psychology away in Australia (W. Louis).
- Division 12.* Motivation intervention in sport (J. Duda), perfectionism in sports (H. K. Hall and G. Roberts).
- Division 13.* Factors in accidents of motorcycle riders (L. Zinkiewicz); drugs, fatigue, and driving (C. Stough), electro-mobility in megacities (J. Krems).
- Division 14.* Natural products as cognitive enhancers (A. Scholey), executive function in children (M. White).
- Division 15.* PhD programs from the students' perspective (A. Sagana).
- Division 16.* Counseling in Europe (A. Di Fabio), life designing (R. Van Esbroek), unpacking relationships (G. Karantzas).
- Division 17.* Psychology, ethics, and social justice (J. Pettifor); cultural competence in Australian people (P. Dudgeon); ethical and organizational management (D. Stokes); psycho-oncology (S. Burney).

Apart from symposia, a section was dedicated to brief oral presentations that allowed discussion of papers on an idiosyncratic topic, grouped by division. The scope and scale of applied psychology in the early twenty-first century were highlighted throughout this congress because it provided the opportunity to delve into some key issues, such as the relevance of psychology in daily life, poverty, terrorism, climate change and behavior, workplace related problems, substance abuse in youth, diversity and culture, human development and education, etc.

The 27th ICAP was also an opportunity to launch the Division of the History of Applied Psychology, which was established with Helio Carpintero as its inaugural president. Its objective was to consolidate certain lines of research on the field of history that had been permanently present in congresses and publications of the society, and have enriched its perceived identity.

The conference was an excellent congress due to its organization, the committees, and the people who worked hard to achieve an attractive, rich, varied, and high-quality event. The large number of contributions, the invited keynotes, state-of-the-art lectures, symposia, and professional exhibitions supported this excellence.

28TH CONGRESS: PARIS 2014

From July 8 to 13, 2014, Paris hosted the 28th International Congress of Applied Psychology under the motto of “From Crisis to Sustainable Well-Being.” It was a great event, organized by IAAP under the umbrella of the French Consortium of Psychology Associations (A-CIPA), with the support of the French Society of Psychology (SFP), the French National Committee of Scientific Psychology (CNFPS), and the French Federation for Psychologists and Psychology (FFPP). France, as described in preceding chapters, has made significant contributions to the development of psychology as a scientific discipline over many years. Auguste Comte, Alfred Binet, Gustave Le Bon, Paul Janet, Théodule Ribot, and Henri Piéron are some of the French scholars who significantly influenced the development of modern psychology. This ICAP 2014 held in France was a sort of *retour au bercail* (wonderful homecoming) of psychology. In this context, the congress was a site of a *rendez-vous* between people of different ideas, multiple cultures, experiences and backgrounds, and it epitomized the benefits applied psychology offers to particular individuals and entire societies. It assembled over 4,500 participants from more than 100 countries scattered across six continents, of whom 550 came from North America, 200 from South America, 1,800 from Europe, 315 from Africa, 800 from Asia, and 450 from Australia and Oceania (Drabik-Podgórna, 2014). As did previous conferences, it aimed to bring together academic scientists, researchers, professionals, and students to exchange and share their knowledge and experiences in all aspects of applied psychology. It was a 5-day conference full of interesting topics that covered the main lines in the field. High-quality research with original results was presented and discussed.

THE SCENARIO

The conference was held in one of the most beautiful and charming capitals of the world, Paris. It was an excellent platform and a great gathering place where psychologists could meet and promote the visibility and strength of psychology. Paris offered an excellent scenario for such an event, not only due to its rich culture but also its contribution to psychology’s development. Century after century, all sorts of historical events have had Paris as their setting, and its influence on culture, science, politics, and the arts has been felt throughout the world, which, at the same time, has continuously sent all kinds of people to the city looking for success in their respective fields. In 1889, Paris was the seat of the first International Congress of Psychology (under the title of Congress of Physiological Psychology), and since then, the psychology story has been entrenched with Parisian life within the many important institutions that lent support to the new science of mind and housed the initial teachings and research. One of these institutions is the Sorbonne University (Place de la Sorbonne), as well as some hospitals, among which the Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière had an enormous influence in the early days of clinical psychology. The names of Sigmund Freud, Pierre Janet, Jean M. Charcot, and Philippe Pinel are strongly associated with it. In addition, the College of France welcomed many important chapters from our past history. Within it, the teachings of Théodule Ribot, Pierre Janet, Gabriel Tarde, Henri Wallon, and Michel Foucault took place, to mention some of the most well-known figures. This story could go on endlessly up to the present.

THE ORGANIZATION

The previously mentioned French psychological societies, A-CIPA, grouping the SFP, the CNFPS, and the FFPP joined their efforts to work on the congress with the IAAP. Moreover, an excellent team, under the leadership of the president of the congress, Professor Christine Roland-Lévy, and the IAAP president, Professor José M. Peiró, carefully prepared the event. Both the Scientific and Organizing Committees, as well as other groups, were working hard to ensure an excellent congress. The Organizing Committee was composed of C. Roland-Lévy (president), E. Rosnet, R. Redondo, B. Quintard, C. Ballouard, S. Guillard, C. Jeoffrion, N. Marut, and B. Shneider. The scientific program committee was led by M. Denis, R. Lécuyer, J. Py, and C. Roland-Lévy.

Let us talk briefly here about the presidents of the congress. The local president, Professor Christine Roland-Lévy, is a psychologist who completed her PhD at Sorbonne University in 1980. She then held a position of senior lecturer at the University of Paris Descartes for 20 years and currently holds a tenured position as a full professor of social psychology at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France. She is well known for her publications in international academic journals. She has served as president of the Consortium of French Psychology Associations and A-CIPA, and more recently she has been the president of the IAAP.

Professor José M. Peiró (b. 1950, Valencia) is a psychologist and full professor at the Universidad de Valencia (Spain). His vast research on organizational processes and social phenomena has earned him a relevant position in that field, and his Institute of Human Resources, Organizational Development and Quality of Life (IDOCAL) at the University of Valencia is at the core of specialized research in these topics. He maintains an important international activity in research and specialized training in organizational psychology, with numerous publications to his credit.

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

The congress presented a solid and extensive academic program that included more than 6,000 abstracts, 5,537 papers and various communications, and 150 keynote lectures. Different sessions were held simultaneously, corresponding to the 18 divisions of the association (organizational psychology, psychological assessment and evaluation, psychology and societal development, environmental psychology, educational and school psychology, clinical and community psychology, applied geropsychology, health psychology, economic psychology, psychology and law, political psychology, sport psychology, traffic and transportation psychology, applied cognitive psychology, student division, counselling psychology, professional practice, and history of applied psychology). It brought together researchers, scientists, academics, professionals, and students from around the world to share knowledge and experiences. Delegates from different industries also participated actively in presenting and indulging in the theme of this conference for promotional activities. The scientific program included two groups of sessions, those in English and those in French. The program featured different types of activities that are typical in these types of events, such as divisional presidential addresses, divisional keynote lectures, symposia, posters, invited symposia, thematic sessions, brief oral presentations, and business meetings.

The congress organized keynote sessions given by outstanding specialists and grouped according to the IAAP division categorization. An important group of transversal characters focused the participants' attention on topics such as sustainability "after the

crisis” (T. Jackson, UK), pathological aging (P. Lemaire, France), cognitive and cerebral aging (M. Van der Linden, Switzerland), active aging (R. Fernández-Ballesteros, Spain), sense of self in a digital world (R. Belk, Canada), ethics in psychology (J. Gauthier, Canada), envisioning health care 2020 (G. Gigerenzer, Germany), clinical health psychology (M. Santiago, Switzerland), making well-being sustainable (J. M. Peiró, Spain), work and self-development (C. Dejours, France), social influence (P. Smith, UK), psychology in Latin-American countries (M. R. Maluf, Brazil), the developing world in the twenty-first century (R. Ardila, Colombia), nonverbal learning disabilities (C. Cornoldi, Italy), PhD psychology (I. Lunt, UK), applied psychology (R. Roe, Netherlands), neural basis of social behavior (A. Sirigu, France), positive parenting (M. J. Rodrigo, Spain), social and economic change (R. Silbereisen, Germany), financial crisis (E. Greenglass, Canada), international intervention for youth and psychology (J. Kuriansky, US), children affected by war (M. Wessells, US), e-Health (H. Devries, Netherlands), space and action (B. Tversky, US), intelligence (J. Gregoire, Belgium), ethical action (R. Sternberg, US), neuroimaging (O. Houdé, France), life instinct (G. V. Caprara, Italy), and health behavior (M. Hagger, Australia), among others. There was also a warm tribute to Charles Spielberger, the late former president.

The number of keynotes in each division gives us a certain indication of the respective size of their respective participation in the event. For instance, the Organizational Psychology Division grouped 12 keynote lectures: Psychological Assessment and Evaluation, 6 keynotes each. Four keynote lectures were organized under the umbrella of the Psychology and Societal Development Division, whereas Environmental Psychology offered two keynotes; Educational and School Psychology arranged six keynotes, and Clinical and Community Psychology Division organized two keynotes. The Applied Gerontology Division organized one keynote lecture, and the Division of Health Psychology, five keynote lectures. Only three keynote lectures were organized in Sport Psychology. The Traffic and Transportation Psychology field welcomed five, and Applied Cognitive Psychology presented three; Professional Practices gave two lectures, and the Division of History of Applied Psychology organized two keynote lectures.

In each division, the symposia were focused on a variety of issues that in most cases made interesting contributions to their respective fields. In the Organizational Psychology field, more than 50 symposia were organized. Some of them dealt with topics such as career development (A. Di Fabio, Italy), talent management assessment (R. Page, US), change initiative (S. Oreg, Israel), the queen bee syndrome (J. Prieto, Spain), constructive social dialogue (E. Pender, Belgium), or occupational stress and well-being research (P. Brouch, Australia), among others. In the case of the Psychological Assessment and Evaluation Division, the six symposia held were focused on various topics, such as the science of well-being (J. Crych, US) or culture and social environment (M. Garcia, Mexico).

In Psychology and Societal Development, issues were considered such as a human information space (V. Dmitrieva, Russia), psychology and society in Latin America (E. Benito, Argentina), welfare and child rights national policies in Africa (J. Mivanyi, Nigeria), or video game play and inter- and intrapersonal sociability (R. Kowert, Germany).

The field of Environmental Psychology welcomed interesting symposia on proenvironmental behavior (M. Crawford, Canada), environmental attitudes (F. Kaiser, Germany), function of proenvironmental behavior (D. Taufik, Netherlands), millennium and development goals (P. Bernabei, Italy), urban environment and well-being (M. Bonaiuto, Italy), public perceptions and energy alternatives (E. Hoestra, Netherlands), or earthquakes and psychological effects (M. Polic, Slovenia), among other different and close

questions. In the Educational and School Psychology Division, topics were discussed like dyslexia (E. WitruX, Germany), innovation in school (M. Gonçalves, Portugal), the future of psychology education (F. Martin, Australia), or evidence-based school programs (C. Spiel, Austria).

In the case of Clinical and Community Psychology, issues dealt with were, for instance, obsessive disorders (M. Nedeljkovic, Australia); children's adaptation (V. del Barrio, Spain); psychoquackery (J. Norcross, US); coexisting mental health and tobacco, alcohol, and other drug problems (A. Baker, Australia); engagement of boys of color in schools (P. Tolan, US); or violence during childhood (S. Graham-Germann, US).

Seven symposia were centered on the debate in the Applied Gerontology field including aging and well-being (C. Paul, Portugal) and the contribution of older people to social, cultural, and economic capital (F. Alpass, New Zealand).

The Division of Health Psychology organized symposia on a variety of topics like prosocial and antisocial behavior (M. Richaud, Argentina), chronic headaches (P. Martin, Australia), recreational drug use (Andrew Parrott, UK), and health promotion across the life span (C. Steinbach, Switzerland). The Division of Economic Psychology centered some of its seven symposia on topics like large risks with low probabilities (T. Tyszka, Poland), tax behavior (C. Kogler, Austria), or monetary intelligence (T. Tang, US). Six symposia took place in the Psychology and Law Division. There were interesting topics such as media, crime perception, and judgment (R. Dumas, Belgium); improving the well-being of women in justice settings (J. Ancis, US); and eyewitness testimony (N. Verrier, France).

The Political Psychology field produced only one symposium on "the global Obama: crossroads of leadership in the 21st century" (D. Sharma, US), apart from five invited symposia on peace and conflicts. Sport Psychology offered six symposia about key issues, among them, athlete identity dynamics (E. Rosnet, France), career transitions and time management (A. Macquet, France), and sporting success (E. Borkoles, Australia). In the case of the Traffic and Transportation Psychology Division, the four symposia organized dealt with questions like traffic psychology in the Asia-Pacific Region (B. McNally, Australia) or driving anger (M. Sullman, UK).

The Division of Applied Cognitive Psychology organized symposia on subjects such as spatial cognition and virtual reality (V. Gyselinck, France), autobiographical memory (P. Piolino, France), and cognitive function in old age (J. Luchsinger, US), etc. In Counseling Psychology, symposia dealt with topics such as immigration transitions (N. Arthur, Canada), career development (S. Leung, China), and development of college students (H. Sheu, US).

Professional Practice held two symposia, one about the psychologist in a rural area (L. Roufeil, Australia) and the other on therapeutic assessment in clinical practice (D. Castro, France). The History of Applied Psychology Division symposia analyzed issues such as measurements of children's minds (S. Cirino, Brazil), relations between psychology and education in the Ibero-American context (C. Facchinetti, Brazil), bibliometric research on the history of modern applied psychology (I. Garber, Russia), or the history of applied psychology in Latin America (H. Klappenbach, Argentina).

FINAL NOTES

ICAP 2014 was a good opportunity to renew knowledge on our scientific identity, update personal scientific points of view, and share experience, but it was also an opportunity to build networking between people of different backgrounds and implement and update

knowledge in different disciplines. Paris has once again been the scenario of advances in science and culture, and the meeting place of people and intellectual traditions. The Paris ICAP 2014 gave participants all sorts of cultural activities, along with the most updated information on psychology as a modern science.

29TH CONGRESS: MONTREAL 2018

Montreal, the largest city in the Canadian province of Quebec, located on Montreal Island, and bathed by the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers. It is an attractive place and full of vitality, and it was the seat of the 29th International Congress of Applied Psychology. This was the second time the city organized and offered an international event dedicated to applied psychology. It was the venue of the 18th Congress, and the reader is kindly invited to review and remember what has been said about this magnificent site in Chapter 8.

As is well known, Canada is one of the largest countries in the world, with a population scarcely above 37 million people, distributed in widely spaced population centers, throughout a territory of nearly 10 million square kilometers. Quebec, the largest Canadian province, is the largest French-speaking area on the American continent. This situation has determined the existence there of a large separatist movement, which, nevertheless, has not been able to overcome a prevailing desire for unity in the country, which is now living in peace. The entire society is now entering the present century with an enormous potential for modernity and democracy.

The congress took place between June 26 and 30 at the Convention Center located in the city's downtown. It was organized both by the IAAP, headed by Janel Gauthier, and the Canadian Psychological Association, chaired by Patrick Baillie.

The congress presidents, on this occasion, were Dr. David J. A. Dozois and Dr. Peter Graf, both long-standing members of the Canadian Psychological Association and the IAAP, which co-chaired the event. They were accompanied by the active presence of Janel Gauthier, the current IAAP president, who finished his term at the end of this convention.

Dr. Dozois is a full professor at the University of Western Ontario, and he specialized in abnormal and clinical psychology; he was representing "applied science" on the committee. On the other hand, Dr. Peter Graf, who co-chaired this event, is professor of psychology and cognitive science at the University of British Columbia and was in charge of the aspects of experimental psychology. They personalized, in a certain sense, the "motto" of the congress, which was "connecting science to solutions," or combining science and practice. With regard to Professor Janel Gauthier (b. 1950, Canada), he is currently emeritus professor of Laval University, Quebec, with expertise in cognitive behavioral therapy, and he has done research in clinical psychology. He led the group that promoted the universal declaration of ethical principles for psychologists (2008). He was also a very active IAAP president, favoring its presence in international forums.

THE CANADIAN TRADITION IN PSYCHOLOGY

As mentioned previously (see Chapter 8 on the 18th Congress), the Canadian tradition in psychology had its starting point in 1893, when J. Mark Baldwin founded a laboratory at the University of Toronto, after his stay with Wundt at Leipzig in 1889. In the days of World War I, interest in individual demands of war veterans ran parallel to the

first industrial and school problems, and as a result, in 1939 – as stated in the preceding pages – the Canadian Psychological Association was founded. Since then, both English and French traditions have coexisted (Hogan & Janisse, 1992), allowing the formation of a tradition with many salient names, ranging from J. M. Baldwin to A. Bandura. On the other hand, professional psychologists gained a salient role in that society and consequently contributed to solving problems in a multicultural society.

The 29th Congress allowed people and institutions to fulfill the experience of enlarging the field of action within society to the whole world, which is a positive achievement. As already mentioned, the guiding theme for the meeting was “Psychology: Connecting Science to Solutions”; such words were the true expression of a deep concern and desire that inspire the psychological community, that is, the need for a fertile and deep connection between scientific research and social needs and problems, so that they might be resolved on the solid ground of real knowledge, far from improvisation and mere compromise. The Canadian Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, and the Prime Minister of the Quebec Province, Hon. Philippe Couillard, expressed in their respective letters their hope for a fruitful convention, with beneficial consequences for society.

The organization of the congress has maintained the consuetudinary structure of these sorts of events. There were several pre-congress workshops on a variety of topics from mindfulness to sport psychology and anxiety therapy. There were also keynotes and presidential addresses by members of the current IAAP divisions, as well as symposia and poster sessions dedicated to the multiplicity of topics psychologists are working on.

Some of these figures will give us a certain idea of the magnitude of the convention. From June 26 to 30, 117 addresses were presented – presidential, keynotes – and 139 symposia, 534 spoken presentations, and 51 forums. Topics like terrorism, children’s empathy, organizational climate, traffic accidents, or mental health and stress, to mention a few as examples, were considered and related to different sorts of populations, situations, and theoretical viewpoints.

There was also a section dedicated to the technical and literary exhibits and the social acts of opening and closing ceremonies, plus the series of division and business meetings required for the good progress of the society.

CONTENTS OF THE CONGRESS

Scientific addresses were quite abundant in this conference. It provided its attendants with a diversified panorama of recent research on all applied topics, presented by highly distinguished specialists. Among the questions selected for treatment by lecturers, there might be mentioned, among others, those of terrorism victims (M. P. García-Vera), health behavior change programs (A. Luszczaynska), longevity (R. Fernández-Ballesteros), ethics in psychology (J. Gauthier); diverse topics seen from a cross-cultural perspective, such as cultural adaptations of psychotherapy (G. Bernal), cultural perspectives in personality assessment (F. Cheung), international psychology (S. Cooper), international perspectives on integrated health care (J. Bray); or other topics like sexual violence (N. Gavey), attention maps (F. Fang), terrorist threat (S. E. Hobfoll), competition (A. Elliot, M. Fülöp), risk-takers (C. Roland-Lévy), sport psychology (M. Raab), mindfulness and yoga (J. Mohan), employees’ well-being (J. M. Peiró), loneliness (D. Perlman), or even reducing poverty in developing countries (M. Frese), or the equivalence of measurement instruments (D. Iliescu), among others.

The symposia brought an important number of ideas and interesting prospective lines of thought (IAAP, 2018). Some of them were given by invited speakers,

whereas others were proposed and organized by specialists who acted as conveners. Based on the IAAP divisions, 17 categories were accepted – there is one Student division, the fifteenth one, that does not correspond to any scientific topic. The symposia corresponding to each division are the following: organizational psychology, 15; psychological assessment and evaluation, 4; psychology and societal development, 13; environmental psychology, sustainable development, 20; educational and school psychology, 9; clinical and community psychology, 16; applied gerontopsychology; health psychology, 10; economic psychology, 4; psychology and law, 6; political psychology, 2; sport psychology, 2; traffic and transportation psychology, 2; applied cognitive psychology, 1; counseling psychology, 17; professional practice, 14; history of applied psychology, 1.

Among the “invited symposia,” five of them dealt with clinical psychology and along with educational psychology, three also dealt with health and economy. In addition, there was one in each of the following divisions: societal development, environmental psychology, history of applied psychology, and professional practice. Let us mention, among those on clinical psychology, a symposium on stress coping (Y. Gan) and two others on psychotherapy (training, by L. Behrman, and cultural application by M. P. Grazioso and P. Sharma); in the Educational division, one symposium on career development (Z.-J. Hou), another on literacy development (E. Geva), and multicultural education (M. G. Nicolas), and another on parenting, social cognition, and emotions in children and adolescents (M. C. Richaud); and a symposium on economy dealt with psychological consequences of money (T. Zaleskiewicz and A. Gasiorowska); in the History division, there was a symposium on European psychologists who emigrated to Latin America (A. M. Jaco-Vilela). Among those on health psychology, let us mention here the one dealing with health psychology in Asia (K. Noguchi), and of those related to professional practice, one on human action and the future of applied psychology (R. Young).

Awards of the society were given to S. Nielsen (Norway) and M. R. Maluf (Brazil) for their respective significant work in the applied field; both of them reported their main research goals and achievements in well-thought-out presentations.

OTHER SYMPOSIA

More than 100 symposia were programmed, including all sort of applied topics closely related to daily life.

Some of them were related to youngsters’ behavior, such as migrant and refugee youth (T. M. Sgaramella), children’s and adolescents’ use of networks (W. Liu), young witnesses or victims (M. Cyr), youth substance use (J. Henderson), and mental health among university students (M. Lumley). Others were focused on violence and conflict situations: victim selection and impact (A. Forth); conflict, harassment, discrimination (A. Arenas); suicide prevention (H. Suzuki); combating terrorism (J. Gauthier); and environmental risk (S. Pahl). Clinical topics also covered an important part of these symposia: depressive cognition (J. Jacobson); dynamic of stress at work (C. Dormann), perinatal anxiety disorders (K. Reynolds), sadistic personality (P. Delroy), stress and cortisol (A. Salvador and M. Pulpulos), brain through EEG (S. Brock), euthanasia decision making (C. Sinclair), also including methodological aspects of the field, such as the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Diseases... in action (P. Ritchie). Health psychology also received some attention: close relationships health (G. Stadler), behavior for health promotion (U. Biswas), factors of food consumption (N. Zeiske), and even spirituality and well-being (S. Kumar).

Economic psychology was also present: money attitude (T. Tang), consumer decision making (T. Brosch), energy-related decisions (I. Kastner), marginalized groups (R. Gali), decent work and poverty (M. Berry), and adherence behaviors (B. Millan), among others. Some of them addressed gender topics, such as gender identity (J. Anderson), being LGBTI (no convener appears in the program), and health and well-being in romantic couples (J. Luescher).

The problem of career development was also present here: career adaptability (H. Cardu), professional bifurcations (I. Olry-Louis), cross-cultural career interventions (F. Leon), and competence and professional identity (S. L. Nielsen). These are closely related to counseling psychological interventions, a topic appearing in counseling psychology's past and future (M. E. Duarte).

Environmental psychology was considered in symposia such as environmental attitude (F. Kaiser), group-based environmental behaviors (T. Bouman), and pro-environmental behavior (A. Ruepert). Law psychology was discussed in the following: eyewitness identification (C. Tredoux), false memory (F. Verkampt), and practices and justice (V. Denault). Organizational Psychology was also taken into account: identity and leadership (R. van Dick), industrial-work-organizational psychology (W. Reichman), motivation at work (A. Oostendorp), and the employee survey (W. Reichman).

Sport psychology was not totally missing, with a symposium on contemporary topics in sport psychology (J. Duda), and Methodology appeared through the topic of social information processing methodologies (J. Hakim-Larson). The congress also had a large number of short individual presentations under the general title of "oral presentations," and within the space of 15 minutes, participants offered short accounts of their personal lines of thought.

Throughout the meeting, there was excellent collaboration between the Canadian psychological society, which was holding its regular convention, and the IAAP, which was benefiting from Canadian hospitality for the second time in its history. International science is increasingly intertwined through national research groups, which are all motivated by their interest in knowledge and the benefits for humanity.

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