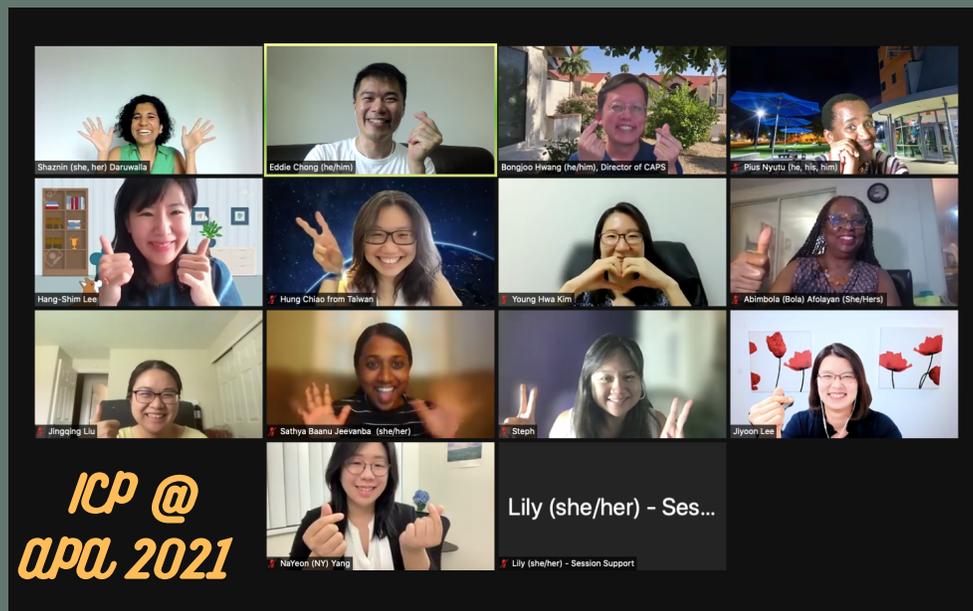


# THE INTERNATIONAL COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGIST

The Newsletter of APA Division 17  
International Counseling Psychology (ICP)



## Note from Editor

Shu-Yi Wang, Ph.D.  
University of Florida, USA

Dear ICP Members and Friends,

I am pleased to present you another issue of our newsletter. Although the pandemic is still ravaging in most parts of the world and preventing us from meeting in-person in yet another Annual APA Convention, I hope this newsletter somewhat serves the function of bringing us together in spirit.

You may have noticed the new title of "The International Counseling Psychologist" appearing at the top of this newsletter. Dr. Andrés J. Consoli proposed this title to accurately capture the breadth and depth of the content of our biannual publication. Our Co-Chairs, Shaznin and Hang-Shim, and I are all in favor of the idea. It is our hope that the new title will further solidify the professional identity of our ICP community.

This issue begins with reports from Co-Chairs and each ICP committee, followed by our award recipients' research and bio and a special report contributed by Dr. Andrés J. Consoli sharing his accomplishments as the SCP Vice President for International Affairs is included. Finally, you will find the result of the needs assessment. Pictures taken during virtual APA are sprinkled throughout the newsletter to help us feel more connected.

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# Co-Chair's Report

Shaznin Durawalla, Psy.D.  
Oregon State University, USA

Hang-Shim Lee, Ph.D.  
Konkuk University, South Korea

Dear ICP community:

I hope you and your loved ones are well as we navigate yet another year of this devastating pandemic. At the time of writing this, more than 227.26 million people have been reported to be infected by the novel coronavirus globally and 4,877,603 have died. According to [this Reuters article](#), the U.S. and India rank numbers 1 and 2 respectively in terms of total deaths and confirmed COVID-19 cases. Given that I (Shaznin) live in the former and my family lives in the latter, I am privy to some stark similarities and differences in how these countries are moving through this global pandemic. While reflecting on my and my family's experiences, I'm reminded of this Arundhati Roy article where she frames this pandemic as a [portal](#) into another world. *Are we ready to fight for it?* she asks in the end, and I'm oftentimes pondering this question in 2021. What do you think?

“

*We have encountered upheaval, (some desirable, some unwanted) changes, and losses, but we have also shown up for each other, shared our stories and suffering, named and leaned into our growth edges, and engaged in advocacy and collective action!*

Before I give you an update on our activities of the past year, I'd like to say my thanks: to the ICP Executive Board, the Division 17 VP for International Affairs, and the entire ICP community for your work, many contributions, and engagement with ICP! Hang-Shim and I have completed the first half of our Co-Chair term, and we couldn't have done it without you! Yes, we have encountered upheaval, (some desirable, some unwanted) changes, and losses, but we have also shown up for each other, shared our stories and suffering, named and leaned into our growth edges, and engaged in advocacy and collective action! For that, I remain ever grateful to you! I have learned tremendously as I complete the first part of my term - and excited for all the ways that I will grow in the coming year!

Creating a newsletter that's of practical use around the office can also motivate your employees to peek into it every once in a while. In the final page, you can add a calendar of events that everybody can look forward to.



## Co-Chair's Report (Con't)

Shaznin Durawalla, Psy.D.

Hang-Shim Lee, Ph.D.

So, what have we been up to since our last newsletter? In May 2021, we offered a discussion space for temporary visa/international workers as part of the Connecting Conversations series, an initiative of Dr. Mary O'Leary Wiley's presidency. This discussion space was offered by Drs. Gitika Talwar, Andrés Consoli, and Shaznin Daruwalla. Eighteen international professionals and allies were in attendance. The courage and pain in the virtual room were palpable. Many spoke about the challenges, privileges, fears, and dilemmas as they navigate the immigration system in the U.S. Attendees also expressed relief from openly talking about their concerns and felt validation from listening to each other. It was moving to witness folks relating and offering support to one another! We hope to offer a Part II discussion space sometime this year to continue the conversation. Stay tuned!

We continued some of these discussions during an APA 2021 roundtable that was focused on the mentoring experiences of QPOC temporary visa holders in the U.S. This discussion was offered in collaboration with the Section of Ethnic and Racial Diversity (SERD) chaired by Dr. Batsi Bvunzawabaya and the Section for the Advocacy of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity (SASOGD) chaired by Dr. Meredith Maroney. Other presenters were Dr. Jacks Cheng, and graduate students Coco Wang and Chia-Po Cheng. During this discussion, we discussed dilemmas that we encounter when our professional and personal lives collide and the stuckness that we might sometimes feel due to our visa status.

Both conversation spaces remind me of the power of connection! I can attest to the broad and specific mental health implications of holding a temporary visa (whether as a student or an employee) and encourage us all to continue breaking the silos created unintentionally when we lose that connection. Together we are stronger, and to my fellow temporary visa holders, I hope we continue to offer and reach out for support and share our stories widely.

Another APA 2021 event that I'm excited to share is the roundtable discussion on examining and uprooting anti-Black racism in international and immigrant communities. We joined with SERD and Section on

Training and Supervision, and our presenters were Drs. Batsi Bvunzawabaya, Lisa Ferdinand, Asmita Pendse, Han Na Suh, and Hsiu-Hui Chen. During this discussion, we spoke about our "contact" experiences with anti-Black racism within and outside the U.S. As a group of international professionals, we discussed how our visa status and acculturation to the U.S. might affect our understanding and engagement with racism. Some of us highlighted gaps in knowledge and discussion spaces for examining our socialization into anti-Black racism. To that end, we identified an initial action item: creating a repository of resources for our international community that might fill some of these knowledge gaps. Many thanks to Lisa Ferdinand, who initiated this suggestion and will be guiding us in bringing it to life! Also, my thanks to Jihee Hong, Bo Hyun Lee, and Baanu Jeevanba for their enthusiastic willingness to start working on this. If you're interested in joining them, please email me: [internationaldiv17@gmail.com](mailto:internationaldiv17@gmail.com). We need you!

Finally, I'd like to extend my thanks to all my brave colleagues who came forward to serve ICP. Thank you, Drs. Xu Li, Remedios Moog, and Brian TH Keum. Congratulations to our newly elected officers! We look forward to working with you:

Dr. Abimbola Afolayan, Secretary

Dr. Chiaothong Yong, U.S. Based Membership Co-Officer

Dr. Chun-Chung Choi, U.S. Based Co-Chair Elect

Dr. Hung Chiao, Non-U.S. Based Co-Chair Elect

In terms of the planning of 2021 fall semester, we continue to offer our monthly virtual support space on the 3rd Wednesday evening (North America) or Thursday morning (Asia) of each month (October 20, November 17, and December 15). Also, we plan to have a global meet-up related to how to make better society for everyone across countries. We will share more detail information via email.

We hope to "see" you there soon! As always, I'd like to end by saying that this Section is your Section. If there are ways we can support/advocate with and for you, please reach out: [internationaldiv17@gmail.com](mailto:internationaldiv17@gmail.com). Welcome to share your voice with us and be well!

# UPDATES AND REPORTS: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



## INTERNATIONAL MENTORING AND ORIENTATION COMMITTEE (IMOC)

Hsiu-Hui Chen, Ph.D., IMOC Chair, Private Practice, USA

The International Mentoring and Orientation Committee was established and has grown on the vision of our founders Dr. Yu-Wei Wang and Dr. Oksana Yakushko along with many other pioneers. We have strived to provide mentorship and a community for international trainees and early career professionals in the field of psychology. Here is the summary of our subcommittees and what we have done the past year:

### *The Professional Development Subcommittee*

This subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Brian TaeHyuk Keum. To respond to the needs in our community, the subcommittee started a working group/committee at the beginning of this year (2021) with the purpose of providing support and resources for ICP members regarding legal issues, such as visa or immigration issues.

### *Membership and Publicity Subcommittee*

This subcommittee is chaired by Jihee Hong, who currently completing her internship. The subcommittee has been working on making connections with training programs nationwide to share our services with training staff and international trainees. The work has helped IMOC to build a larger and closer community.

### *Convention Planning Subcommittee*

This subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Bo-Hyun Lee. The subcommittee has been focusing on planning and hosting events during APA focusing on the interests of our members and building connections. It has put hard work and thoughtfulness in the events it hosts. With the hardship we went through the past year, this committee also hosted a Winter Roundtable virtual event for our members to have a support space.

### *Website Management Subcommittee*

This subcommittee is chaired by Doris Zhang, who is finishing up her doctoral degree. This subcommittee has been working very efficiently on promoting all the programs and messages to our members.

This year, the subcommittee started a new tradition at APA that it held a Meet and Greet virtual event for international students to make connections during the convention.

## INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY PRACTITIONERS COMMITTEE (IPPC)

### Co-Chairs:

Dr. Jiyeon Lee, New York University, USA

Dr. Jingqing Liu, University of Oregon, USA

# UPDATES AND REPORTS: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The International Psychology Practitioners Committee (IPPC) in Div. 17 International Section at APA is dedicated to provide peer-support and mentoring for international practitioners in need of their professional and personal development. The IPPC members in 2020-2021 currently consist of 14 practitioners. The IPPC members participate in monthly virtual peer-support meetings to discuss emerging issues for members in their professional settings and our society.

During the APA virtual convention in August 2021, IPPC hosted a webinar, entitled "Starting a Private Practice During COVID-19 Pandemic," and 30 people attend the webinar. The panelists, Drs. Jeeseon Park-Saltzman and Erica Wiley, shared their experience starting a private practice during an economically difficult time and touched on common challenges related to private practice and how they attempted to address these challenges. A recording of the webinar is accessible via [this link](#) (Password: ?r3T6Huc).

In addition, IPPC hosted a virtual event to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of IPPC.



Four founding members of IPPC, Drs. Jinhee Kang, Yi-Jiun Lin, Keum-Hyeong Choi, and Seda Sümer-Richards were invited back to share their experiences starting IPPC. Other IPPC members shared their reflection on how IPPC has impacted them over the past 10 years.

IPPC will have new leadership in the upcoming year. Dr. Jiyoan Lee will step down and move on and Dr. Soonhee Lee, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will serve as the co-chair of IPPC along with Dr. Jingqing Liu. IPPC continues aiming at providing a welcoming and supportive professional home for all international psychology practitioners. Feel free to contact Jingqing Liu at [jingqing.liu@gmail.com](mailto:jingqing.liu@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning more about IPPC or want to join us.

## LGBTQ+ COMMITTEE

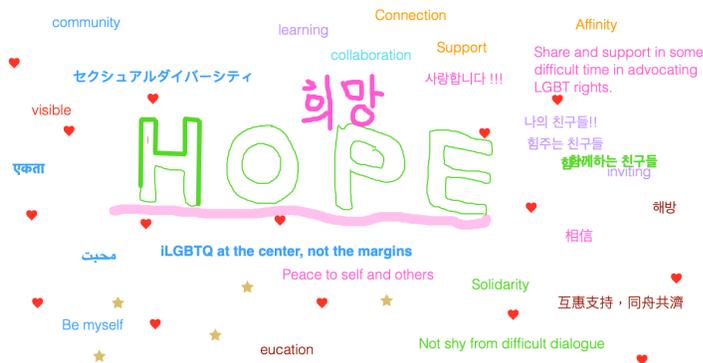
Co-Chairs:

Dr. Makiko Kasai (she, her), Naruto University, Japan

Dr. Eddie Chong (he, him), University of Hong Kong, China

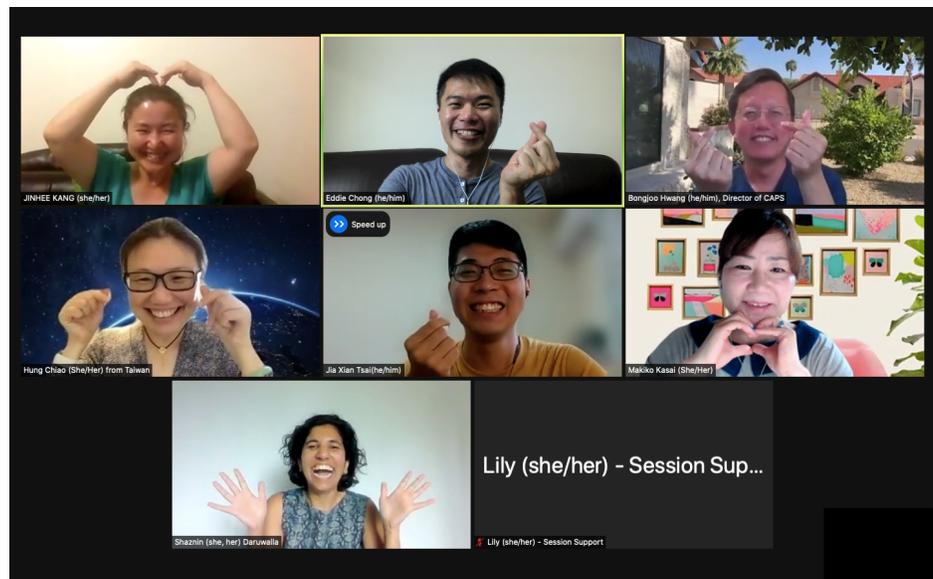
Hey folx! We are Drs. Makiko Kasai (she, her) and Eddie Chong (he, him), co-chairs of the LGBTQ+ Committee in the International Section of Div 17. Our community gathers a group of scholars, practitioners, and students who are committed in promoting the well-being of LGBTQ+ people and in raising public awareness of LGBTQ+ issues across nations and cultural contexts. We have been connecting periodically over zoom in and out of the U.S. to support each other's personal growth and professional development. Most recently, we met during APA 2021 to discuss how COVID-19 has been impacting the lives of LGBTQ+ folx in different countries and regions. We welcome members of the international LGBTQ+ community and allies to join our committee. Please feel free to reach us by email ([iLGBTQ@outlook.com](mailto:iLGBTQ@outlook.com)).

# UPDATES AND REPORTS: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



## LGBTQ+ Committee

APA 2021



## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

NaYeon (NY) Yang, M.Ed.  
University of Maryland, College Park, USA

Sathya Baanu Jeevanba, Ph.D.  
University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas, USA

### Collaborative Programming with Division 52 and the Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP) Collaborative Programming

The ICP student representatives, NaYeon Yang and Sathya Baanu Jeevanba, collaborated with Division 52 and the Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP) to host three events during the APA 2021 Virtual Convention to address the issues of internationalizing and decolonizing psychology and COVID-19 and gather psychology students from all over the world into one place.

### Student Poster Presentation: Internationalizing and Decolonizing Psychology and the Impact of COVID-19

The first event involves two student poster presentation sessions addressing the issues of internationalizing

# UPDATES AND REPORTS: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

and decolonizing psychology and the impacts of COVID-19 on students in the field of psychology. Fifteen student research teams from different parts of the world presented their work, and over 60 students from all around the world joined this event. The ICP student representatives, NaYeon Yang and Sathya Baanu Jeevanba, did a representation entitled "The Impact of COVID-19 On International Graduate Students In Counseling/Clinical/School Psychology Graduate Programs" to address the difficulties faced by international graduate students in psychology programs based on the results of the needs assessment they conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## International Psychology Leadership Panel

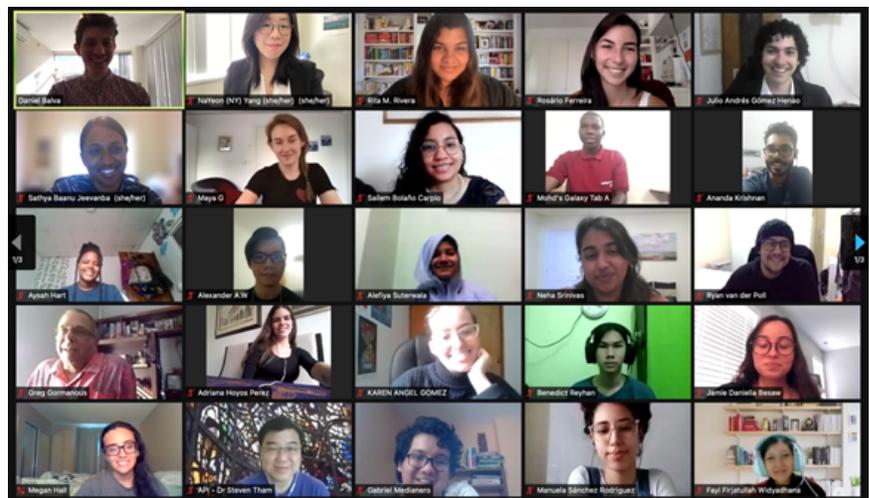
We invited eight leaders in the field of psychology from each continent of the world for the second event, the International Psychology Leadership Panel, to have meaningful discussions about leadership in psychology, the importance of international collaborations, and the ways psychologists engage in the issues of social justice and inequity from a global perspective. These panelists consisted of current and former presidents and vice-



presidents of professional psychological associations. They primarily discussed how the field of psychology could work as a “bridge” to resolve social justice and inequality issues and stressed the importance of internalizing decolonizing psychology to bring such changes to the world. Over 70 participants from over 15 countries joined this event to listen to their knowledge and wisdom.

## Global Student Networking Event

Finally, we hosted the Global Student Networking Event to connect psychology students from all around the world. Over 70 students from diverse countries (including but not limited to, U.S., Colombia, Mexico, Honduras, Panama, South Africa, Nigeria, Guyana, Chile, Portugal, South Korea, Singapore, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the list goes on!) joined this event to connect with peers and share their perspectives on mental health in their countries. We further discussed how future generations in



# UPDATES AND REPORTS: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

the field of psychology could continue to foster international connections to advance our profession and promote mental health and social equity in this world.

## AWARDS COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs:

Pius Nyutu, Ph.D, Fayetteville State University, USA

Hang-Shim Lee, Ph.D., Konkuk University, South Korea



The ICP Awards committee successfully conducted nominations and selection for the Excellent Contribution Award and the Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award. The call for nominations for both awards as well as the Lifetime Achievement Award was disseminated on April 28, 2021. Due to the

low number of nominations received for the Excellent Contribution and Lifetime Achievement awards by the deadline of May 31, 2021, the deadline for the two awards was extended to June 9, 2021. Two nominations were received for the Excellent Contribution and Lifetime Achievement awards and ten nominations for the Graduate Student Outstanding Research award. A committee of seven ICP members (listed below) conducted the review. Dr. Senel Poyrazli, Penn State University, was selected for the Excellent Contribution Award, and P. F. Jonah Li, Indiana University Bloomington, was selected for the Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award. Additionally, four students (P. F. Jonah Li, MA. Indiana University Bloomington; Taewon Kim, MA. University of Houston; Joonwoo Lee, M.Ed. University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Chongzheng Wei, M.Ed. University of California, Santa Barbara) were awarded scholarships of \$400 each for their outstanding research work. There was no selection for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Congratulations to all the awardees and student scholarship winners. They are all featured elsewhere in this newsletter.

ICP Awards Committee members:

- Pius Nyutu, Ph.D, Co-Chair, Fayetteville State University, NC
- Hang-Shim Lee, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea
- Dr. Alvin Leung at The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Dr. Zhijin Hou at Beijing Normal University
- Dr. Mark Leach at University of Louisville
- Dr. Brian TaeHyuk Keum at University of California, Los Angeles
- Dr. Stephanie Chong at State University of New York, University at Buffalo

# AWARD RECIPIENTS

*Excellent Contribution Award, Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award, and Scholarships*



## *Award Recipients*

### *Excellent Contribution Award:*

Dr. Senel Poyrazli, Penn State University

### *Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award:*

P. F. Jonah Li, Indiana University Bloomington

### *Scholarships:*

P. F. Jonah Li, Indiana University Bloomington;

Taewon Kim, University of Houston

Joonwoo Lee, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Chongzheng Wei, University of California, Santa Barbara

## **EXCELLENT CONTRIBUTION AWARD: SENEL POYRAZLI, PH.D.**

### *Penn State University*

Senel (pronounced as Shenel) Poyrazli is a full professor of counseling psychology at Penn State Harrisburg where she has been employed for the past 20 years. She also serves as the chair of Social Sciences and Psychology. She received her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from University of Houston and M.Sc. in counseling psychology from Northeastern University - Boston. Her undergraduate is in counseling from Turkey. Her research primarily involves college students' psychosocial and academic adjustment processes; with cross-cultural competency being an additional research interest. She was awarded a Teaching Excellence Award by Penn State Harrisburg in 2007, the Faculty Diversity Award in 2010, and the Excellence in Faculty Research and Scholarly Activity Award in 2021. In addition, she is the recipient of the Outstanding International Psychology Award from Division 52.

Dr. Poyrazli is a fellow of three divisions at the APA: Division 17 Society of Counseling Psychology, Division 52 International Psychology, and Division 1 General Psychology. She is also a fellow of the Eastern Psychological Association.

She is actively involved within APA. A highlight of her service at APA is her presidency for Division 52 (International Psychology) in 2014. She also served a 5-year term as the editor of the division's official publication *International Psychology Bulletin* and chaired the division's Long-Range Planning Committee. For APA Division 17 (Society of Counseling Psychology), she chaired the International Student Mentoring and Orientation Committee (IMOC) and served for three years as a reviewer for the division's APA conference program. Within Division 1 (General Psychology), Dr. Poyrazli served as an associate editor for the division's newsletter, *The General Psychologist*. Dr. Poyrazli currently serves as an associate editor of the *Eurasian Journal of Educational Research*.

### Research Summary and Statement

My journey in the United States began 27 years ago when I decided that a graduate education overseas was necessary to help in the advancement of the counseling field in my country, Turkey. First as an international student and later as an immigrant, my experiences and observations of others shaped my identity as a counseling psychologist and helped me see how I can contribute to the advancement of psychology, not only in Turkey and the United States, but also more globally. My professional development allowed me to see that an exchange of information among world psychologists was necessary to advance the field of psychology and promote tolerance, understanding, and acceptance among different groups. These experiences greatly determined my research agenda.

As a counseling psychologist/clinician and psychology professor with an international perspective, my research naturally focuses in three interrelated areas: adjustment issues among college students, from an international or comparative perspective; culturally responsive teaching and counseling practices in the curriculum and in clinical practice; the experience and adjustment issues of immigrant groups in the United States. The first research area is related to psychosocial and academic adjustment of college students, particularly international students.

College students go through different adjustment processes related to their college experience and depending on their backgrounds they may encounter several academic and cultural challenges. If they are not successful at dealing with these challenges, they can experience high levels of loneliness, depression, and increased physical health problems that may present serious obstacles to their academic achievement. If they experience a successful adjustment process, however, they are more likely to excel academically, experience fewer psychological and physical health problems, and be able to complete their education in a timely manner. In my own research, while studying general adjustment processes, I have also focused my research on more specific variables that may influence students' adjustment. Some of these variables are related to assertiveness, homesickness, discrimination, social support, and psychological concerns. A finding that emerged repeatedly in my work was that international students' level of English proficiency and the type of group with which they mostly socialize relate to whether or not they will have positive psychological experiences. This research also showed that students who had higher English skills showed higher levels of positive psychological outcomes. In addition, compared to students who primarily socialized with student groups from the U.S. culture or international students from outside of the students' home country, the students who primarily socialized with students from their home country showed lower levels of adjustment and acculturation. My research also identified that academic concerns, stress, and anxiety are the three leading concerns for international students. My research related to international students was published in well-known journals such as the ones published by the *American Psychological Association* and the *American Counseling Association*.

In addition to studying international students, I have also begun studying non-international students to contrast their adjustment processes with the ones experienced by international students. My research, which was published by a prominent journal – *The Journal of Psychology* – has shown that, compared to their U.S. counterparts, international students are in a more disadvantaged position in that they present with higher levels of homesickness and higher levels of perceived discrimination. An implication of these findings is that different intervention strategies are necessary to help international students with their successful transition to college.

My second area of research is guided by my clinical expertise and focuses on culturally inclusive mental health practices. This research emphasis contributes to the field of international psychology and the efforts to internationalize the psychology curriculum. My work has contributed to the achievement of this goal. I published an article about the validity of Rogerian Therapy in Turkey to advance the counseling psychology field in Turkey and help psychologists realize that other theories or methods might need to be introduced into the field so that more individuals from different cultural backgrounds could be better served. In addition, I published several book chapters related to Turkish counseling and psychotherapy practices in English so that other psychologists in the world can be informed about these practices in Turkey. My work in this area was published by several high-quality journals within the American Counseling Association. My most recent accomplishment in this area is my co-edited book, *International Case Studies in Mental Health* by Sage Publications, which showcases different mental health practices around the world while also informing readers about different contextual conditions in other countries that may affect individuals' psychological well-being. I strongly believe that, as psychology continues to expand beyond borders, it is vital that we educate would-be practitioners about the resources and knowledge that already exist in different regions of the world.

A third area of research combines knowledge from the first two and aims to expand understanding of immigrant and refugee groups living in western countries. I contributed to a clinical interviewing textbook by Wiley Publishers about what to pay attention to when interviewing immigrants and how to conduct a culturally-inclusive intake session. I have been studying the factors that facilitate positive interaction between immigrants and refugees and the host culture and the factors that help immigrant and refugees successfully acculturate and become productive members of their new society. My work in this area indicated that women immigrant and refugees show more positive adjustment and acculturation outcomes and better mental health if they are employed. My work also identified that immigrant families living in western cultures could fall victim to the influence of extended family when the family fails to acculturate and when appropriate social services are missing.

In conclusion, my career has allowed me to incorporate

my clinical expertise and professional identity as an international counseling psychologist into my research. My research, then, informed my service work to my profession and my teaching. My *outstanding contribution to the field of psychology* has been recognized by the American Psychological Association and the Eastern Psychological Association by being elected to fellow status, by being invited to serve on the editorial boards of academic journals, by being elected to serve as APA Division 52 International Psychology's president, by being invited to give a research presentation in the U.S. (Washington, D.C., Las Vegas, Boston, MA, Cambridge, MA, New York, NY, and Brooklyn Heights, NY) and Turkey (Istanbul, Ankara, SanliUrfa, and Denizli). Google Scholar indicates that my research has been cited 3,953 times and I have an h-index of 19, and i10-index of 25. I look forward to the years ahead to continue conducting high quality research and disseminating my findings in order to advance my field.

#### Selected public and professional recognition (internet/media)

[Senel Poyrazli elected as fellow of American Psychological Association](#)

[Link to book, International Case Studies in Mental Health \(Sage Publishers\)](#)

[PHLS Alum Senel Poyrazli Flourishes at Penn State Harrisburg](#)

[Professor at Penn State Harrisburg Goes on a Mission: Senel Poyrazli digs deep to find answers involving International Students](#)

[International research being quoted in Psychology Today](#)

[International research being quoted in Counseling Today](#)



*Graduate Student Outstanding  
Research Award:  
P. F. Jonah Li  
Indiana University Bloomington*

Editor's note: In-text citations, footnotes, and references have been deleted from the original submission for the purpose of brevity. The information is available upon request.

P. F. Jonah Li is a counseling psychology Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology at Indiana University. He is also currently conducting his predoctoral psychology internship at the University of Washington Counseling Center. His research aims to promote optimal psychological functioning in diverse (and minority) populations. To this aim, his three lines of research include (a) advancing the conceptualizations of positive and humanistic-existential psychological constructs, (b) developing psychometrically sound measures assessing those constructs, and (c) creating, evaluating, and promoting innovative and efficacious interventions to enhancing positive functioning.

**An Interpretive Phenomenology: Chinese and Taiwanese Participants' Perspectives on Gratitude in a Culturally Adapted Psychotherapeutic Group and in Chinese Culture**

Although counseling psychologists have recognized the usefulness of gratitude interventions to promoting clients' well-being, little is known about people's perception and experience on gratitude in psychotherapeutic and non-European American contexts, such as Chinese culture. Such an understanding is important because (a) client factors account for the strongest contribution (i.e., 40–87%) to psychotherapy outcomes; (b) therapists who missed considering clients' cultural factors could worsen therapy outcomes; and (c) this understanding could facilitate counseling psychologists' multicultural orientation<sup>8</sup> and competence.

We therefore targeted individuals of Chinese, Taiwanese, and Hong Kong backgrounds (as those have been recognized as regions of Chinese societies) and developed the *Mandarin Chinese Gratitude Group (MCGG)* by culturally adapting the Gratitude Group Program. Specifically, we utilized Mandarin Chinese as the primary language in the MCGG—the official language of those regions. We incorporated Chinese proverbs in the interpersonal gratitude session (e.g., “If you give me peaches, I'll return you plums.” 投之以桃, 報之以李) which help participants relate to Chinese cultural perspectives.

**The Present Study**

Extending previous quantitative studies on gratitude psychotherapeutic interventions and conceptually guided by social constructionist perspectives, this interpretive phenomenological qualitative study examined the experience and perception of Chinese and Taiwanese adult participants in the MCGG and in Chinese culture.

*P. F. Jonah Li:  
An Interpretive  
Phenomenology: Chinese and  
Taiwanese Participants'  
Perspectives on Gratitude in a  
Culturally Adapted  
Psychotherapeutic Group and in  
Chinese Culture*

### Method

We recruited (N=11) Mandarin-speaking individuals interested in participating in the MCGG. Participants varied by age (range=18–29 years), gender (3 males and 8 females), time living in the U.S. (2 months–11 years), and country of citizenship (9 were from China and 2 from Taiwan). We interviewed all participants in person and audio-recorded and transcribed all interviews.

Following the best practices in counseling psychology, we established the credibility and trustworthiness of our data interpretation: (a) attaining dependability via using a consistent set of interview questions; (b) practicing reflexivity before conducting interviews and during data analysis; (c)

being cognizant of our own assumptions; and (d) explicating our positionality. Using thematic analysis, we determined meaning units, grouped meaning units into themes, and defined the essence of phenomenology. We sent our findings to participants. Six participants replied and agreed with our findings.

### Results

Eight themes emerged and endorsed by nine or all participants: (a) Evolved Understanding of Gratitude, (b) Centrality of Family, (c) High Context Communication Styles, (d) Perceived Barriers to Verbalizing Gratitude Toward Others, (e) Being Vulnerable in Verbalizing Gratitude in a Supportive Group Environment, (f) Experiencing Gratitude as Contagious, (g) Experiencing Holistic Growth, and (h) Cultural Adaptations of Gratitude Psychotherapeutic Interventions.

The phenomenological essence of participants' experience of gratitude was described as navigating a dialectical interplay between Chinese cultural norms and MCGG group norms. Specifically, participants are grounded in Chinese culture which prioritizes family relationships, and the importance of conveying gratitude toward one's parents because of the value of filial piety. Chinese culture also encourages the practice of high context communication styles. Additionally, culturally informed high context communication styles, gender roles, as well as adherence to emotional self-control led to participants' initial discomfort with verbalizing grateful feelings. Given the promise of gratitude psychotherapeutic interventions to promote gratitude in Chinese culture, cultural adaptations that address indigenous Chinese cultural elements and cross-cultural experiences are needed. On the other hand, the MCGG served an informal social laboratory in which participants could experiment with new ways of understanding and expressing gratitude. In the MCGG, participants reconstructed and broadened their understanding of gratitude and learned new approaches to expressing gratitude as a result of group norms engendered by the group facilitators and members. Support from group members allowed them to exercise vulnerability in verbalizing gratitude within the MCGG in ways that differ from dominant Chinese cultural and familial practices. Witnessing group members' verbal expression of gratitude and its corresponding psychosocial benefits created a contagious effect that motivated participants to engage in similar acts of gratitude expression in their interpersonal relationships outside of the MCGG. Consequently, participants experienced enhanced interpersonal relationships, which also benefitted them personally. As those relationships were recursive, those positive effects snowballed and spiraled upwards, resulting in their holistic growth.

### Discussion

This study is the first to examine Chinese and Taiwanese participants' perspectives and experiences within a gratitude psychotherapeutic group in Mandarin Chinese, which directly addresses the lack of research on in-depth understandings of gratitude from a diversity and culturally specific lens. This study directly promotes the scientist-professional model of counseling psychology in international contexts in the U.S. by conducting an interpretive phenomenology (i.e., the scientist aspect) on a gratitude group (i.e., the practice aspect) that was culturally adapted for Mandarin-speaking individuals (i.e., the international context).

*Student Research  
Scholarship Award:  
Taewon Kim, MA.  
University of Houston*



**Research**

An Examination of the Psychology of Working Theory with Immigrant Workers in the United States

**About Taewon Kim**

I was born in South Korea and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology, Social Science, and Women's Studies and a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Ewha Womans University. After graduation, I worked for several years and found that many employees and job seekers suffered from institutional barriers, discrimination, and meaninglessness. The anger that I had toward systematic oppressions empowered me to leave my job, entered a counseling graduate program in Korea, and further study in a doctoral program in the United States (US).

Adjusting in the US was not easy; I had to navigate marginalization that stemmed from my changed identities, such as my immigrant status, race, and language proficiency on top of existing marginalized identities. However, my adjustment in the US helped me be more passionate about international contexts in counseling and vocational psychology. In this regard, I want to identify how contextual barriers (e.g., immigration status, language discrimination, social class/classism, and race/racism) predict suboptimal work and psychological outcomes. Second, I hope to investigate cultural contexts that manifest differently in people's work experiences and well-being to provide more culturally supportive interventions.

**Research**

An Interpretive Phenomenology: Chinese and Taiwanese Participants' Perspectives on Gratitude in a Culturally Adapted Psychotherapeutic Group and in Chinese Culture

**About Jonah Li**

Please see the section on Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award.

*Student Research  
Scholarship Award:  
Jonah Li, MA.  
Indiana University  
Bloomington*

*Student Research  
Scholarship Award:  
Joonwoo Lee, M.Ed.  
University of Wisconsin-  
Madison*

*Student Research  
Scholarship Award:  
Chongzheng Wei, M.Ed.  
University of California,  
Santa Barbara*



**Research**

Three studies, focused on investigating parental factors (parental behavior, attachment security) and self-variables (self-shame tendency, rejection sensitivity, and self-concept clarity) as antecedents of differing levels of internalized transnegativity among Korean TNB individuals.

**About Joonwoo Lee**

Joonwoo Lee (pronouns: he/him/his) is a doctoral student in Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a lab member at Trans CARE Collaborative. His main research and clinical focus are on working with trans and nonbinary (TNB) individuals. Particularly, he is interested in addressing internalized transnegativity and parental relational trauma among TNB individuals. Currently, Joonwoo is working on a manuscript that quantitatively investigates self-shame, self-concept clarity, and rejection sensitivity as mediating variables between parental attachment and internalized transnegativity among Korean TNB individuals. In addition, he is working on qualitative research that explores change in workplace experience among the Korean TNB population pre and post-transition. As part of the TransCARE lab, he is currently involved in developing intervention strategies for trans people of color with a radical healing framework.

**Research**

Measuring Internalized Binegativity and Its Association with Mental Health Risks among Bisexuals in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan

**About Chongzheng Wei**

Chongzheng Wei (he/they) is a doctoral student in Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology at UC Santa Barbara. His research centers around addressing minority stress and mental health disparities facing the LGBTQ communities, especially bisexual+ individuals. Prior to their doctoral studies, Chongzheng was sponsored by the Chinese government to work at UNESCO headquarters in Paris and Asia-Pacific regional office in Bangkok, promoting gender equality and LGBTI inclusion in the education sector through international programming and policy advocacy. They are a global citizen and speak Chinese (Mandarin), English, and French.

Editor's note: Awardees' research abstracts are available upon request.

# SCP'S VICE PRESIDENCY OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

## A Report to the Community



### **Andrés J. Consoli, Ph.D.**

University of California, Santa  
Barbara

SCP's Vice President for International  
Affairs

I want to express my gratitude to all ICP Section members working to advance the rights of international students and workers, as well as the international engagement of our discipline. Thank you as well to all with whom I have had the privilege of working in advancing an international perspective within SCP and beyond. I also want to thank the Editor, Dr. Shu-Yi Wang, for making space for me and all ICP members to communicate with our constituents. ICP's Newsletter is an important avenue of dialogue and dissemination of information. As you may recall from prior articles, I am serving a three-year term as SCP Vice President for International Affairs. I would like to share with all our members and readers some of the accomplishments during my first year in office.

Before doing so, I want to acknowledge that the pandemic continues to rage, be it in its original or new variants. It continues to take many lives in the U.S. and the world over. It exposes issues of injustices and inequities the world over. Just as the monarch butterflies, this virus and all viruses know no borders yet humanity and power structures insist on enforcing a brutal system that has disenfranchised many to the benefit of a few. Meanwhile, as a scientist-practitioner who has devoted much of my life to the ongoing understanding of human comportment, the refusal to be vaccinated by many who have the privilege of accessing it and the defiant attitude by many more to not take the basic measures known to prevent the virus transmission have challenged me in personal and professional ways. I also want to acknowledge the many humanitarian crises in our midst, be natural or human-made disasters, and both, all over the world. Let's all aspire to use counseling psychology for the betterment of all communities.

I have now served my first full year in the demanding office of SCP's Vice-presidency for International Affairs. I have found myself feeling moved, stretched, challenged, inspired, and much more. I met with co-chairs, Drs. Hang-Shim Lee and Shaznin Daruwalla and past co-chairs Drs. Bongjoo Hwang and Hana

## SCP'S VICE PRESIDENCY OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY (CON'T)

Suzuki, to develop a collaborative, synergistic agenda that prioritizes interests in the form of deliverables.

I will begin with some positive news, born out of a collective, dedicated effort by all parties involved. During my first meeting with ICP leadership, a year ago, I learned of a desire by ICP Section leaders and membership to count with a Division-wide award that recognizes international engagement and supplements our existing, Section-wide awards. I committed myself to advocate on our collective behalf on this matter by working collaboratively with SCP's Cabinet and Executive Board. The entire Cabinet and Board members were readily supportive of the proposal and gave their endorsement to explore the logistics of it. Such logistics were quite involved, requiring multiple, consecutive drafts of the call for nominations, securing input from many constituents, consultation with other organizational structures, and a vote. I am pleased to report that the proposed two awards are now officially adopted by SCP and they will be known as SCP International Award for the Advancement of Counseling Psychology Values. The awards will be given for notable collective work focused on international matters, actions, or endeavors that are congruent with the values embraced by counseling psychology. Examples of these values include, yet are not limited to, Social-Restorative-Distributive-Environmental Justice, Reparations and beyond, Emancipation, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Intersectionality, Pluralism, Advocacy, Wellness, Humanism and Human Rights, Peace, Sustainability, Prevention, Developmental and Strength-Based Perspectives, Open Access to Knowledge, and Universal Access – the Affirmation of the Rights of a full range of Abilities. Two awards will be given: one to a collective based primarily in the US and another to a collective based primarily outside of the US. The character of the work that each collective is engaged in must be international in nature and scope. While individuals may nominate themselves and be nominated, the awards seek to emphasize collective values recognizing organizations that have distinguished themselves in their ability to make a difference in the international arena as a collective. A Call for Nominations will appear at the time when the call for nominations for all Division-wide awards comes out, typically later in the Fall.

The following is a summary of activities and actions that I engaged in over the course of my first year in office. I apologize for any inadvertent omission of names or events; I thank you in advance for bringing them to my attention:

1. In fulfillment of responsibilities as an elected member of SCP I attended all required and non-required meetings and participated proactively in all of them.
2. I met monthly with ICP Section leaders and communicated with ICP Section members and all SCP members by submitting regular articles for consideration of the editor of the ICP Section Newsletter. The Newsletter is distributed to all SCP members:

Consoli, A. J. (this issue). SCP's Vice Presidency Office for International Affairs: A Report to the Community.

Consoli, A. J. (2021). International Advocacy: Using our Privilege and Leadership Voices to Advance Social Justice. *International Counseling Psychology*, Winter, 8-12.

Consoli, A. J. (2020). International engagement: Vice President for International Affairs. *International Counseling Psychology*, Summer, 9-10.

3. I worked closely with Dr. Ayse Çiftçi, our outgoing VP to ensure a smooth transition. I am grateful to Dr. Çiftçi for sharing with me the wisdom she accumulated as the inaugural VP for International Affairs. We all are indebted to Dr. Çiftçi as she continues to represent counseling psychology at the international

## SCP'S VICE PRESIDENCY OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY (CON'T)

level, now as a member of the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP).

4. As previously indicated, during the initial meeting with ICP Section leaders, they communicated a wish for Division-wide international awards. ICP Section leaders and I made this item central to our meetings. In collaboration with them, I developed a draft that went through multiple revisions. Once consensus was achieved, I requested time during an EB meeting for a sense vote on the proposal. Subsequent to that favorable sense-vote, I submitted the item to SCP's Finance Committee who approved it and allocated \$1,000 to each award, pending approval by SCP's EB (I was informed that the amount is standard for Division-wide awards). Now the approval of the awards, they will be part of the regular, Division-wide Awards' Call for Nominations.

5. I responded affirmatively to the invitation to volunteer to serve as mentor by the International Mentoring and Orientation Committee (IMOC). Following my volunteering, I had the privilege of mentoring two IMOC graduate students: Ana Marisa Hill, University of Georgia and Léi Y. Sun, University of Miami. I thank the two of them as I learned a lot from them both. I want to give a shout out to Drs. Kayi Hui-Spears and Sunny Ho who co-chaired the IMOC mentoring program. They did a phenomenal job linking mentor volunteers with interested graduate students.

6. I met with Dr. Amanda Clinton, Senior Director of APA's Office of International Affairs (OIA) and collaborated with her and her staff to formalize the collection of information of Divisions with an international interest, among other joined activities. OIA staff joined me and others in an APA collaborative program submission to APA's 2021. The symposium proposal was accepted and delivered at APA's 2021 Convention in a two-hours slot. I want to thank Dr. Shaznin Daruwalla who joined me in the proposal, and co-chaired it with me. I also want to thank all the presenters. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the generous assistance I received from SCP's Convention Programming Tri-Chairs, in particular from Dr. Stephanie Carrera who went above and beyond to make sure all our questions were proactively answered and addressed. The list of represented units included APA's OIA (Dr. Gabriel Twose, *International Engagement by APA's Office of International Affairs: Partnering with Divisions*); Division 9 (Dr. Phia Salter, *International Engagement by APA's Division 9 SPSSD*); Division 38 (Dr. William Tsai, *International Engagement by APA's Division 38*); Division 52 (Drs. Brigitte Khoury and Lawrence Gerstein, *International Engagement by APA's Division 52*); Division 56 (Dr. Monica Indart, *Critical Consciousness in Global Collaborations: Division 56 and the Learning from COVID19 Pandemic*); in addition to Division 17 (see below). Please note that the symposium is available on demand through APA's Convention archives. Below are the citations:

Consoli, A. J., & Daruwalla, S. (co-chairs) (2021, August). *International Engagement: APA and Divisions Advancing Mutually Transformative Learning Partnership*. Symposium presented at the (virtual) annual convention of the American Psychological Association

Consoli, A. J., & Daruwalla, S. (2021, August). *International Engagement by APA's Division 17 - the Society of Counseling Psychology*. Paper presented at the (virtual) annual convention of the American Psychological Association.

7. I responded proactively to the request by the Committee Revising APA's Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct by inviting ICP Section leaders to collaborate on a document addressing feedback from an international perspective. Dr. Shaznin Daruwalla joined forces with me and we provided extensive feedback on the matter.

8. I responded affirmatively to a request by SCP's Secretary Dr. Heidi Zetzer by providing feedback on two separate versions of a document titled "International Guidelines for Psychology Training Clinics."

## SCP'S VICE PRESIDENCY OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY (CON'T)

9. I met with SAS leadership to strategize international engagement and have continued to collaborate with them on multiple activities in an effort to ensure students' input and representation.

10. I responded affirmatively to an invitation by two Australian colleagues who had reached out to SCP's President Dr. Mary O'Leary Wiley to join on an international project inquiring about the perceived similarities and differences about counseling psychology and clinical psychology among counseling psychologists. There are about a dozen nations that are participating in the study. Dr. Shaznin Daruwalla, ICP Section co-chair, joined the project and Mary, Shaznin, and I met with our Australian colleagues, Catriona Davis-McCabe (c.davis-mccabe@curtin.edu.au, Curtin University, western Australia) and Michael Di Mattia (michael@michaeldimattia.org, Monash University). We developed the survey accordingly, distributed it through multiple channels, and collected data through an online platform. We are in the midst of analyzing the responses and have shared the data collected with our Australian colleagues. Mary, Shaznin, and I are pleased to report that we have almost 100 counseling psychologists who responded to the survey!

11. I responded affirmatively to an invitation by SCP's President Dr. Mary O'Leary Wiley to join forces with Drs. Jennifer Marie Taylor and Ryon McDermott, as well as Dr. Germán Cadenas, to facilitate one of Mary's presidential initiatives: Engaging Advocacy. I created a group within the initiative concerning International Advocacy Engagement, tri-chaired by Dr. Shaznin Daruwalla, SAS tri-chair J. Robina Onwong'a, and myself. We sought to address International Advocacy Engagement with respect to Students, Workers, and Scholars. Jennifer, Ryon, and I submitted a symposium proposal to APA 2021 on the overall initiative. The proposal was accepted and we presented it during APA's 2021 Convention. The symposium included a presentation by Shaznin, Robina, and I. The reference to the symposium and the presentation are:

Taylor, J. M., & Consoli, A. J. (co-chairs) (2021, August). *Engaging Advocacy: An SCP Presidential Initiative at Training, International, and Community Levels*. Symposium presented at the (virtual) annual convention of the American Psychological Association. Approved for Continuing Education.

Consoli, A. J., Daruwalla, S., & Onwong'a, R. J. (2021, August). *International Advocacy Engagement: Students, Workers, and Scholars*. In J. M. Taylor & A. J. Consoli (co-chairs), paper presented at the (virtual) annual convention of the American Psychological Association. Approved for Continuing Education.

Furthermore, Jennifer, Ryon, and I developed a series of Ask and Advocate (AaA), where one of us interviews a counseling psychologist who is actively engaged in advocacy to dialogue about their work while demystifying advocacy. Jennifer, Ryon, and I would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Sherry Wang for her generosity in sharing her wisdom concerning advocacy engagement. A summary of the work done was presented at the Liberation Lounge during APA's 2021 Convention. The reference for it is:

Taylor, J. M., Consoli, A. J., & McDermott, R. (2021, August). *The Presidential Initiative on Engaging Advocacy: A Time for Celebration and Sharing*. Symposium presented at the (virtual) annual convention of the American Psychological Association.

12. Following the consultation by an SCP member seeking support for their application for the National Interest Waiver and who reached out to SCP's President Dr. Mary O'Leary Wiley, it became apparent the need to create a mechanism for all members to access SCP's support in their application process. As such, I proactively invited multiple colleagues to join forces and created the National Interest Waiver: Advocacy Network (NIW-AN). Several colleagues joined me, including J. Robina Onwong'a, Shaznin Daruwalla,

## SCP'S VICE PRESIDENCY OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY (CON'T)

Hsiu-Hui Chen, Bongjoo Hwang, Lina Liw, and Brian Keum. We met several times and developed an initial document to summarize the history of the group formation as well as an outline of possible next steps. We sent invitations via Div17Discuss listserv as well as ICP Section's listserv. The initial goal was to create a readily available and accessible mechanism that SCP members in need of tangible support (i.e., a letter from SCP as a division supporting their application; possible additional letters of support) could utilize. We invited an immigration lawyer to educate us on the range of visas and their complexities. Upon consultation with APA's Legal Counsel, we learned about the intricacies of our undertake in the context of a Division within APA, and the possible conflicts with APA's articles of incorporation. We had to rethink our goals and we are in the middle of it. We anticipate that our role will be one of support and guidance as counseling psychologists helping fellow international students and international workers in their path towards residency. We anticipate that NIW-AN and a specialty group within IMOC will join forces to work collaboratively on the matter.

I networked with Kenneth Polishchuk, Senior Director for Congressional & Federal Relations, from the APA's advocacy team, to learn about APA's interest in joining forces to respond proactively to two presidential orders, one concerning H1-B holders and the other involving international students. I reached out to multiple constituents including SCP members, ICP Section members, SAS leaders, Division 52 officers, and beyond to secure testimonials on both matters. I asked for volunteers among ICP Section leaders to join me on drafting multiple documents including SCP official responses to both matters and creating a template that members could use to express themselves as individuals. Dr. Shaznin Daruwalla volunteered to join me in drafting these documents. I lead the creation of the documents opposing the Proposed Rule 85 FR 60526, DHS Docket No. ICEB-2019- 0006, Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media and Shaznin lead the creation of the documents for opposing the Interim Final Rule 85 FR 63872, DOL Docket No. ETA-2020 0006, Strengthening Wage Protections for the Temporary and Permanent Employment of Certain Aliens in the United States. In addition, Robina, Alexis, and Gloria, as SAS tri-chairs, together with SCP's Cabinet joined the efforts to develop an official comment on behalf of SCP. As done previously, and while it is impossible to acknowledge all the people who contributed to the documents, I want to give a shoutout to Mary O'Leary Wiley, SCP's President, who has supported these initiatives throughout, all the while amplifying our voices in exponential ways. Another shoutout goes out to Jennifer Taylor, as she singled handedly took it upon herself to reach out to her representatives and got Representative Curtis, of Utah, a republican, to take a stance against the Trump administration on this matter. Another shoutout goes out to the members of the Multicultural and Social Justice Graduate Student Committee at the University of Houston, Danielle Llaneza, Laura Harvey, Marla Munro, Nayoung Choi, Taewon Kim, Tracie Liu, and Yesenia Zetino, who joined forces to keep our membership informed and to take actions. Thank you one and all! In the process, we learned about the need to update the "rapid-response" guidelines and to include in that mechanism statements directed at parties outside of SCP. Of particular note is the need to run by APA's Legal Counsel statements such as those we were developing. I am pleased to say that we were able to file an official response as a Division against both Presidential Orders that included multiple individual testimonies. I am even more pleased to indicate that per NAFSA: Association of International Educators' interpretation of the Biden Administration Regulatory Freeze memorandum of January 20, 2021, the proposed final rule won't be able to advance "until a department or agency head appointed or designated by the President after noon on January 20, 2021, reviews and approves the rule."

13. I provided edits and input from an international perspective to the SCP Digital Community Policy. I

## SCP'S VICE PRESIDENCY OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY (CON'T)

suggested adding the words "and Guidelines" to the title of the current draft to further characterize the document. I offered a paragraph on international matters, and a comment on the inclusion of international affiliates.

**14.** I responded affirmatively to a request by SCP's past president Nadya Fouad who has served as expert witness in *Jun Yu, Plaintiffs – Appellant, v. Idaho State University* (i.e., *Yu v. ISU*). I explored the possibility of SCP joining the Amicus brief and drafted the necessary document. Unfortunately, after extensive consultation with APA counsel, President O'Leary Wiley and I learned that since APA decided not to participate in the brief unless it were to reach the Supreme Court (on the grounds of limited resources while focusing those resources on other pressing matters), and that there was no precedence that a Division within APA would join as Amicus party when APA decided not to, basically we needed to pass. I was able to collaborate with the EMPAs for them to join and I, as an individual, together with many SCP members did so.

**15.** I networked with multiple colleagues, most noticeably Dr. Linda Forrest, to nominate internationally engaged SCP members to relevant positions and awards. To avoid the potential conflict of interest of occupying a Division-wide, elected position, and advocating for a single member for each of the two awards, I proposed to create a committee constituted by SCP members who had received the awards (i.e., APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology or the APA International Humanitarian Award). I am pleased to report that distinguished SCP members who are past recipients of one of the awards joined the special committee, Drs. Sharon Horne, Gargi Roysircar-Sodowsky, Kathryn Norsworthy, and Stanley Krippner. They all graciously volunteered and worked diligently to identify potential nominees from SCP's membership roster. While I facilitated the process of selection, I refrained from expressing my views on the candidates and limited my role to creating a database, computing scores, rank-ordering the results based on the data that the distinguished committee generated. I am pleased to report that the outcome of the committee was fruitful and that the two selected colleagues expressed a commitment in submitting a nomination packet. I want to acknowledge Dr. Roysircar-Sodowsky who volunteered to lead the nomination of one of the selected candidates. Thank you Sharon, Gargi, Kathryn, and Stan!

**16.** I collaborated closely with the Steering Committee of the African Psychological Network (APN), particularly Drs. Pius Nyutu and Rev Udochi Majesty Odikanwa, as well as Dr. Abimbola Afolayan. We met several times to strategize about the furthering of APN, its mission and goals as well as to facilitate the dissemination of APN information and events. I have participated in APN meetings regularly and joined APN as a member.

**17.** Most recently, SCP leadership has been approached by different parties about addressing the tensions experienced by some members of SCP regarding the peace processes between Palestine and Israel. This is a historical, ongoing matter that is currently being considered at multiple levels, APA as a whole, by many of its Committees, and Divisions, including SCP. I trust that progress will be made in facilitating respectful, courageous dialogues while striving to educate and model affirmative, emancipatory actions.

In closing, gratitude for the volunteer service by colleagues is personally important and culturally congruent for me, in many fundamental ways. I would like to express my appreciation to the outgoing officers of ICP and congratulate incoming officers: Dr. Abimbola Afolayan, newly elected ICP Secretary; Dr. Chun-Chung Choi, U.S.-based Co-Chair Elect and Dr. Hung Chiao, Non U.S.-based Co-Chair Elect; Dr. Chiaothong Yong, U.S.-based Membership Co-Officer. I look forward to working with you all.

## **SCP'S VICE PRESIDENCY OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY (CON'T)**

Please, ICP members, SCP members interested on international matters, and all readers, let me know how to best represent your interests in my existing role within SCP. I can be easily reached via email at [aconsoli@ucsb.edu](mailto:aconsoli@ucsb.edu).

In solidarity,

Andrés J. Consoli  
SCP's Vice President for International Affairs

ICP

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

THE IMPACT OF COVID - 19  
ON INTERNATIONAL  
GRADUATE STUDENTS IN  
THE U.S.



ICP Student Representatives

**NaYeon (NY) Yang, M.Ed.**

University of Maryland, College Park

**Sathya Baanu Jeevanba, Ph.D**

University of Kansas Medical Center,  
Kansas City, Kansas

## OVERVIEW

In the Spring of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic was gaining traction globally and making its impact on the U.S., many international students within ICP had voiced concerns about their status and future. It was through their stories and the stories of others we knew personally that the Needs Assessment idea came to fruition. Under ICP's co-chair, Shaznin Daruwalla's guidance we discussed ways to begin creating programming and resources for our student members. Below is a summary of our findings and main takeaways.

## RESPONDENTS

We had a total of 35 participants in counseling/clinical/school psychology graduate programs (Mage = 29.8, SD = 3.79). Most participants identified as cisgender female (88.6%), following cisgender male (8.6%), and then gender queer (2.9%). Racially, a majority of participants identified as Asian (77.14%),

European/White (20%), and other (11.4%). Main countries of origin include China (25.7%), South Korea (22.9%), and India (17.1%). Finally, in terms of sexual orientation, most identified as either heterosexual (77.1%), bisexual (14.3%), Gay/Lesbian (5.7%), or Queer (11.4%). It's important to note that most of the participants who completed the survey were currently located in the U.S. (94.3%) while their families were not (91.4%).

## FINDINGS

We identified four main areas to focus on in the needs assessment: academic concerns, financial concerns, clinical-related concerns, and visa-related concerns. We decided on these four areas based on a consensus from board members, our discussions in support spaces, and overall personal and professional experiences. Our main findings are below:

### Academic Concerns

- 37.15% reported that they struggle with academic work after the COVID-19 outbreak due to factors related to social isolation, financial and mental health concerns.
- 33% reported that they rarely or never receive support from their graduate program regarding international student concerns.

### Financial Concerns

- Mixed results related to financial support from programs:
  - 58% receive stipends from their programs
  - 60% receive full tuition waiver (22% partial; 18% no waiver)
- 15% reported that their stipends are unstable.
- 10% reported that their tuition were partially removed due to COVID-19.
- Nearly 20% reported they lost their graduate assistantships due to COVID-19

### Clinical-Site Related Concerns

- 46 % not getting enough individual hours.
- 43% not getting enough assessment hours.
- 23% lacking community engagement/outreach opportunities.
- 10% experiencing racial/ethnic discrimination at site.

### Supported Needed from ICP

Finally, we asked participants to share suggested areas of support they would like to see and have as ICP student members. We captured their responses below:

- Financial support
- Legal and advocacy support
  - Navigating visa issues
  - Connecting with lawyers
  - Removing citizen requirements from some APA accredited sites
- Mentorship programs
- Networking events to increase social connections

This needs assessment has allowed us to be intentional in the programming and advocacy efforts that have taken place since then. It is our sincere hope to address these needs and improve our service to our student members. The collaboration programming offered with Division 52 was in effort to create more opportunities for student members to network and make connections with other international students/professionals across the world. As for legal and advocacy support, ICP leaders have been working on pushing more visibility within APA on the specific issues facing our community to garner support. We hope to continue this momentum to build more support for our students in the coming years.

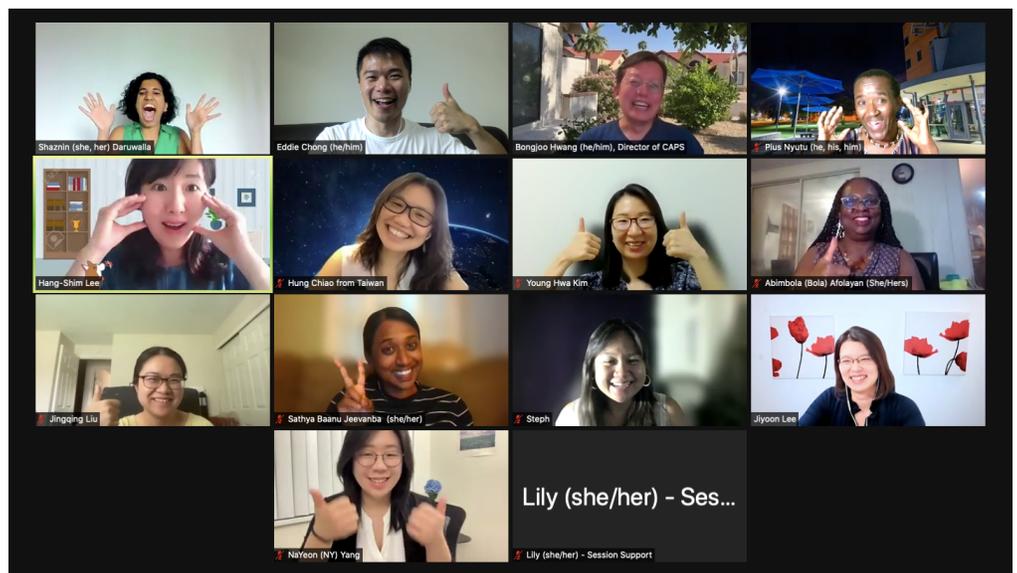
# APA 2021 PICTURES

## H1B Panel Meeting



## IMOC Meeting

## Business Meeting



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ★ International Students and Scholars Support Space

**When:** The 3rd Wednesday evening (9 pm ET/6 pm PT, North America) or Thursday morning (Asia: 9 am HKT & Taiwan time / 10 am Korea & Japan time) of each month (October 20, November 17, and December 15).

**Where/How:** <https://csulb-hipaa.zoom.us/j/93473037532>

## ★ The International Counseling Psychologist, Winter 2021

Please consider contributing to the next issue of *The International Counseling Psychologist*. More information will be provided soon. If you have questions, please contact Newsletter Editor, Shu-Yi Wang ([shuyiwang@ufl.edu](mailto:shuyiwang@ufl.edu)),

## ★ ICP Upcoming Webinar

 **SAVE THE DATE**  
Anti-Black Racism Education Webinar Hosted by  
APA Division 17 International Section  
**November 4th  
@ 8pm est**  
STAY TUNED! MORE DETAILS TO COME

  
**DR. CHARMAIN JACKMAN**  
FEATURED SPEAKER  
Psychologist, Consultant, &  
Founder/CEO, InnoPsych, Inc.

# ICP COMMUNITY

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## OFFICERS ELECTED

Dr. Chun-Chung Choi, U.S. Based Co-Chair Elect

Dr. Hung Chiao, Non-U.S. Based Co-Chair Elect

Dr. Abimbola Afolayan, Secretary

Dr. Chiaothonng Yong, U.S. Based Membership Co-Officer

**JOIN ICP!**