



# International Psychology Bulletin

Newsletter: Division 52 of the American Psychological Association

Editor: Stephen DiDonato  
Associate Editor: Joyce Yip Green

Volume 25, May 2020



## Message from the President Brigitte Khoury, PhD

The world has certainly changed since I started my year as president of Division 52 in January 2020. It changed in an unexpected and never experienced-before manner that has left us questioning the very essence of our existence. The concept of time and history is narrowed into two periods: Before COVID-19, After COVID-19. Can we still remember what our ambitions were Before COVID-19, what goals we relentlessly pursued, or what luxury items we routinely purchased... and why they even mattered? How will life be After COVID-19? What lessons are we learning? What are we discovering about ourselves, each other and the world around us? Simultaneous to the COVID-19 crisis, another kind of crisis is developing an existential one.

The world was hit by the most "asocial" virus imaginable, which dictated to us physical distancing, remote working and learning, and home confinement for all of us. For once, humanity is found itself together in the same crisis. For once, we are all equal, men and women, young and old. For once, race, ethnicity or, religion do not matter anymore. For once, we are all facing the same enemy, which we cannot see, cannot fight and know little about.

Although all the apocalyptic scenarios which we have often seen or heard in the media revolved around nuclear wars, invasions from outer space, or natural disasters wiping out the earth and its inhabitants; it was actually one of the smallest particles existing on earth, that threatened our existence and is making us revisit its meaning. The first reactions of people around the world were denial, fear, anxiety, depression, panic, and shock and survival mode. Then came the time of grappling with a flurry of often contradictory information learning about the virus, and reading daily statistics with ever-increasing numbers of infections, and horrifying stories of people dying alone. Mental health was on the forefront from the first day of the crisis: people were sharing a common trauma, a threat that was getting closer to their lives and their loved ones and a sinking feeling of doom's day.

However, in order to survive, humans need to be resilient, accept their fate in order to conquer it. As a testament to the resilience of humanity, it became clear that despite the social distancing requirements, we actually came closer together and simple acts of caring for one another routine. . So the daily numbers of victims from all over the world, and the desolate images of empty streets and cities, were quickly replaced by scenes of solidarity, help, support, and most of all hope.. People used music, clapping, social media, and personal initiatives to help those who are in need.. We might have already forgotten why we cared so much about the superficial things Before Corona, but we know what matters now. Time will tell if we sustain our reformed human spirit, realize that all we needed was each other, and conclude that our relations were the essential component to our safety, happiness and survival. The world turned out to be a village, and we are living in "interesting times".

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## DIVISION NEWS

### APA Convention 2020 is going virtual!

August 6-9, 2020

Details to be shared with Division 52 members sometime early June

<https://convention.apa.org/>

### Division 52 and COVID-19 Taskforce

Division 52 recently formed a COVID-19 Taskforce to address various aspects of the pandemic. Dr. Lawrence Gerstein [lgerstein@bsu.edu](mailto:lgerstein@bsu.edu) and Dr. Falu Rami [drfalurami@gmail.com](mailto:drfalurami@gmail.com) are Co-Chairing this Taskforce.

Four subgroups have been created. If you would like to join one of this subgroups, please email the Co-Chairs.

### Service Delivery: Now and Future

Lemny Perez, Psy.D. [dr.lemnyperez@gmail.com](mailto:dr.lemnyperez@gmail.com)  
Priya Ratty, M.A. [priya22ratty2@gmail.com](mailto:priya22ratty2@gmail.com)

### Training and Education

Deborah A. Stiles, Ph.D. [stilesda@webster.edu](mailto:stilesda@webster.edu)  
Joyce Yip Green, Ph.D. [Joyce.green@lmu.edu](mailto:Joyce.green@lmu.edu)

### Legal Issues and Advocacy

Falu Rami, Ph.D. [drfalurami@gmail.com](mailto:drfalurami@gmail.com)

### Research

Luca Tateo, Ph.D. [lucateo@gmail.com](mailto:lucateo@gmail.com)  
Giuseppina Marsico, Ph.D. [gmarsico@unisa.it](mailto:gmarsico@unisa.it)

Congratulations to **Brian Davis**, the chair of the Division 52 Global Citizen Citation program who was awarded to be an **APA General Congressional Fellow for 2020-2021**. [See Dr. Davis biography.](#)

**Anne Marie Tietjen, PhD** Recognized for Commitment and Leadership in Global Health. [Read more](#)



*In Memoriam:*  
**Dr. Jean Lau Chin**  
**Div52 Past-President**

It is with great sadness that we share about the passing of our colleague, mentor, leader and friend, **Dr. Jean Lau Chin**, due to complications from COVID-19. Jean was Div52 President in 2016 and was an inspiration to many women, psychologists and students. She led Division 52 into a new phase through her vision of global psychology and the integration of international psychology into APA's work. She was a model of courage and patience until the end. Jean lost her valiant fight and passed on May 13, 2020. Our thoughts are with her family and her friends. She will be greatly missed.



Those who would like to send words or tributes please reply to [APADiv52@gmail.com](mailto:APADiv52@gmail.com) - comments will be collated and sent to all.







# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

## COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY AND PEACE PSYCHOLOGY RESPONSES TO THE PANDEMIC

CARL WALKER AND SERDAR M. DEĞIRMENCIOĞLU

Local groups of residents have organised and mobilised to support the most vulnerable and isolated people in their neighborhoods in Italy, Britain, Greece, Turkey and elsewhere. This community response to the pandemic lends itself to a relational account of well-being that foregrounds 'enabling places' where well-being is not as a set of entities to be acquired as internalized qualities of individuals but instead as a set of effects produced in specific times and places, as situational and relational.

This broader notion of what constitutes well-being, and the emphasis of social movements cooperating for the common good, leads us to community psychology. Community psychology as a discipline is oriented to a values-based approach to well-being that focuses on working with those experiencing exclusion, in order to bring about social change. Central to the discipline is the idea that all people, especially those with lived experiences of exclusion, have vital forms of expertise necessary to bring about meaningful change.

Perry Bellegarde, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations in Canada, recently said: "This virus lays bare the links between our well-being, our climate, and the biodiversity crisis of our own creation, which now stares humanity in the face. As we are all forced to consider our own mortality, we should also consider our opportunities to be better stewards of our communities, of our resources and of our world."

On Earth Day, 22 April, peace psychologists noted the causal links between economic development, the loss of biodiversity and climate change, and the opportunity for viruses like COVID-19 to spread. The pandemic has also confirmed long-standing arguments of peace psychologists that nuclear weapons, huge armies, border walls and so forth do not make humans more secure. The largest military forces around the world could not stop the virus. Now, various politicians have declared "war" against the virus. Peace psychologists are busy exposing this militaristic discourse and how it puts refugees, immigrants, marginalized groups, as well as the world in danger.

## COLLABORATIONS

### An international network of cultural psychology studying the COVID-19 pandemic socio-psychological aspects

Luca Tateo, University of Oslo, Norway, and Giuseppina Marsico, University of Salerno, Italy

The "K-seminar" ("kitchen seminar"; homepage <https://sites.google.com/unisa.it/gris/k-seminars>) is a "think tank" including more than 400 scholars worldwide, that has been continuously running through weekly face-to-face and videoconference meetings since 1997 (first at Clark University; since 2013 at Aalborg University; and at University of Salerno from 2019). Its focus is on discussion of new or unfinished projects (research designs, drafts of publications, new ideas for research). It has created (through weekly deliveries of discussion materials directly into e-mail boxes) a dynamic international research community that has initiated a number of research projects on the psychosocial aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of cultural psychology. The network is carrying on a number of international studies. [Read More.](#)

### 28-Nation study funded by APA OIA aims to understand the effects COVID-19 related stress

Ashley K. Randall

Couples navigate stressful situations in culturally specific ways, and the positive effect of dyadic coping - couples coping together with stress - on relationship satisfaction has been found to vary in strength between nations. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, dyadic coping may play a larger role in alleviating stress in contexts when existing community coping resources are low (e.g., strained healthcare systems, migration of mental health services online, etc.). This 28-nation study aims to understand the effects COVID-19 related stress on both individual and relationship well-being, and potential mitigating effects of positive dyadic coping for individuals in a romantic relationship living across the world. Data is being collected from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the US. Identifying the social and cultural factors that influence dyadic coping will enable psychologists, mental healthcare providers, and policy makers to tailor culturally fitting research and clinical recommendations in coping with COVID-19 related stress and future global pandemics. Funding has been provided by APA's Office of International Affairs to support international data collection efforts. For more information please contact the PI Dr. Ashley K. Randall ([Ashley.K.Randall@asu.edu](mailto:Ashley.K.Randall@asu.edu)).

**Cross-cultural study about coping styles in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic.** From Kyle Msall, PhD, Assistant Professor at Zayed University in Dubai. email: [kyle.msall@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.msall@gmail.com) or [kyle.msall@zu.ac.ae](mailto:kyle.msall@zu.ac.ae) [Read More.](#) ..

• **Compassion, social connectedness and trauma resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic: A multi-national study**  
• CINEICC researchers at the University of Coimbra in Portugal established a multinational team of researchers from 18 countries around the world, who have come together to investigate the psychological impact of this pandemic and understand whether compassion and self-compassion may protect against its negative consequences on mental health.  
• More information about the study [here](#)

### • Face masks as layers of meaning in times of COVID-19

• Luca Tateo, University of Oslo,  
• Orcid: 0000-0002-3207-6312  
• [Read More](#) ...

• **Psychology & Human Rights Network** - The Global Network of Psychologists for Human Rights (GNPHR) is a network that is open to all psychologists, human rights activists, and others interested in the intersection of psychology and human rights issues  
• See [www.humanrightspsychology.org](http://www.humanrightspsychology.org).

# ECP Corner

## Introduction!!

We are grateful to IPB for the opportunity to introduce our committee! My name is M. Cristina Cruza-Guet and I am the 2020 Chair of the Division 52 Early Career Committee. My career in psychology began in South America, where I completed a B.S. in Clinical Psychology at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. Upon graduation, I relocated to the US and obtained a M.Ed. and Ph.D. at Lehigh University's Counselling Psychology Program. Currently, I serve as adjunct faculty at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and the Professional Psychology & Family Therapy Program at Seton Hall University. I am also an addictions specialist at an opiate abuse treatment program. My clinical and research interests focus on the utilization of formal and paraprofessional social supports in the treatment of addictions with US and international populations. My goal this year as a chair is to recruit a larger pool of international and local ECPs and revitalize their participation within Division 52.

In addition to a chair, our committee is led by a chair-elect and a past chair (who I am introducing below). This new trio structure will expand our capacity to serve the needs of all ECPs within our division!

**Juan Antonio Valdivia** (*Chair-Elect*) is a clinical and educational psychologist from Mexico. Antonio holds a B.S. in Clinical Psychology and a M.S. in Psychology from Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, and obtained his PhD in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Research, Evaluation and Measurement at Washington State University. He currently serves as adjunct faculty at Tecnológico the Monterrey, where in addition to teaching psychology courses, he is a lead researcher on the cultural and linguistic appropriateness of educational and psychological measures administered to Spanish-language examinees. As chair-elect, Antonio is particularly interested in fostering collaborations among Latin American and US psychologists.

**Katelyn Poelker** (*Past Chair*) is a learning analytics analyst at Edward Jones. She graduated with a master's and a PhD in Developmental and Experimental Psychology at Saint Luis University. Her research interests focus on adolescent's socio-emotional development and how culture shapes developmental processes. During her year as a chair in 2019, Katelyn spearheaded the development of a mentorship program for Div 52 ECPs and students.

**We are excited to continue building and strengthening this program in 2020.**

## Get involved!

We are currently seeking Div 52 ECPs to serve in three of our subcommittees: Publications, Convention, and Marketing! If you are interested in joining any of the committees, please email me at [criscru@gse.upenn.edu](mailto:criscru@gse.upenn.edu).

## Reach out & stay in touch!

We look forward to hearing from you! Please email us at [criscru@gse.upenn.edu](mailto:criscru@gse.upenn.edu) (M. Cristina), [javaldivia@tec.mx](mailto:javaldivia@tec.mx) (Juan Antonio) and [katepoelker@gmail.com](mailto:katepoelker@gmail.com) (Katelyn) with your questions, comments, and suggestions!



# Student Corner

## Introduction!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. My name is Ankita Nikalje and I am the student chair for Div. 52 International Psychology this year. I am a 4th year Counseling Psychology Doctoral Candidate at Purdue University! I am also closely connected with Div. 17 Counseling Psychology and Division on South Asian Americans (Asian American Psychological Association), I truly believe that International Psychology cuts across all the various disciplines of psychology and this is best represented in the work we all do.

This is the first year that Div. 52 has a trio of student chairs (Past-Chair - Adetutu Ajibose, Chair - Myself, Chair-Elect - Daniel Balva) representing students of 52! Having three of us working together will allow us to strengthen programming for students and achieve goals that are consistent with creating a leadership pipeline.

**Daniel Balva** is a second-year Counseling Psychology doctoral candidate at the University of Georgia. He has a strong passion for global mental health, multiculturalism and international social justice concerns, juvenile justice, and disability awareness— all of which form the basis of his research interests, leadership involvement in various organizations, and international collaborations and engagement.

**Adetutu Ajibose** is a 4th year doctoral student in the Clinical psychology program at William James College. Her major area of concentration is in African and Caribbean Mental Health and Children and Families of Adversity and Resilience (CFAR). Her passion for social justice and civil rights drives her involvement and leadership in multiple professional organizations, her ongoing international work, and zeal for multicultural experiences.

## Get involved!

There are several opportunities to get involved in Div 52 as a student, several committees are looking for students to join! Getting involved can be a great way to seek mentoring and leadership experience. Committees currently active and looking for students: IT/Social media, Membership, Curriculum & Training, Awards, ECP, & Newsletter! If you are interested in joining any of the committees, please email me at [anikalje@purdue.edu](mailto:anikalje@purdue.edu)

## Study Participation!

Here is great study to get involved in regarding International students and COVID-19:  
[https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1zSTPIQ0zOVxt1H](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1zSTPIQ0zOVxt1H)

## Keep in touch!

I encourage you all to email us Ankita ([anikalje@purdue.edu](mailto:anikalje@purdue.edu)), Daniel ([daniel.balva@uga.edu](mailto:daniel.balva@uga.edu)), and Adetutu ([adetutu\\_ajibose@williamjames.edu](mailto:adetutu_ajibose@williamjames.edu)) with any questions, concerns, or feedback you may have!



# WEBINAR

KAREN BROWN AND FALU RAMI

The Division 52 Webinar Committee regularly hosts monthly webinars hour long informational and skill building sessions. They are open to the public. These webinars are conducted to increase connectivity and to highlight recent and ongoing work within the field of psychology. Not all webinars focus on psychology professionals, for example in 2019 we had Grammy nominated musicians, The Mendes Brothers.

Please join our May and June 2020 webinars:

**May 2020** – Webinar co-Chair Dr. Falu Rami will discuss Humanitarian Perceptions of Syrian Refugees

**June 2020** - Dr. Kristijan Civičak will discuss the importance of Behavioral Economics

Because June is Sexual Assault Awareness Month we will be hosting an additional webinar hosted by amazing trio of women who will talk to our audience about Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention.

Please visit the Division 52 Webinar webpage to register for the upcoming webinars and access to archived webinars:

<https://www.div52.net/index.php/activities/webinars>.

The Division 52 Webinar Committee is seeking individuals to join the team! Please send your CV to Karen Brown at [brownkb6567@gmail.com](mailto:brownkb6567@gmail.com) or Falu Rami at [drfalurami@gmail.com](mailto:drfalurami@gmail.com)

## NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

by Stephen Didonato and Joyce Yip Green

We want to thank the leadership of Division 52 for their support in helping us to envision a new IPB that aims to serve to (1) connect members of Division 52 through announcements of upcoming events run by Division 52 as well as its members, (2) highlight member activities and accomplishments, (3) highlight international partnerships and projects, and (4) inform members of upcoming workshops and conferences. The IPB will place a special emphasis on ECPs, students, and international members to enhance the voice of these member groups. This is our inaugural issue of the new IPB, moving forward we will produce bi-monthly (January, March, May, July, September, and November). The September issue will serve as a year end and APA Annual Convention recap.

Additionally, we want to thank our incredible Division 52 member community for the contributions to this issue. We hope that this issue shows the breath of work Division 52 members are engaging in currently, especially during this difficult time as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, and also highlights member accomplishments and activities.

We will be sending a call for submissions for the July 2020 issue by June 1, 2020 along with enhanced submissions guidelines for each section. We appreciate everyone's patience as we navigate this process.

Please feel free to send us inquiries, suggestions, and any other communication to our **new email: [IPBDiv52@gmail.com](mailto:IPBDiv52@gmail.com)**

Best wishes,  
Steve and Joyce

## Member Publications

\*(Click on titles for full descriptions)

[Cambridge Handbook of International Psychology of Women - August 2020](#)

[Congress, E.P., Takooshian, H., & Asper, A. \(Eds.\). \(2020\). Behavioral science in the global arena, Volume 1. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishers.](#)

[Rich, G. J., Jaafar, J. L., & Barron, D. \(Eds.\). \(2020\). Psychology in Southeast Asia: Sociocultural, Clinical, and Health Perspectives. Routledge.](#)

[Tateo, L. \(2020\) A Theory of Imagining, Knowing, and Understanding <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030380243>](#)

[Teaching Psychology Around the World: Volume 5. UK:CSP. 2020. 500 pages.](#)

## QUICK LINKS

[COVID-19 and the Need for Action on Mental Health](#). UN Policy Brief, 13 May 2020. 17 pages including an Executive Summary.

**UN Psychology Day – UN75 The Multilateralism We Want: Psychological Contribution to Building Bridges Among and Within Nations** Organized by PCUN, Psychology Coalition at the United Nationso May 27th @ 10am CST – [REGISTER HERE](#)  
[Read more on UN Psychology Day from Dr. Takooshian](#)

International Council of Psychologists Annual Conference is going Virtual!  
<https://icpweb.org/icp-annual-conference/icp2020-annual-conference/>