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2020

Foreword

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ScholarWorks Citation

Safdar, S., Kwantes, C., & Friedlmeier, W. (2020). Foreword. In S. Safdar, C. Kwantes, & W. Friedlmeier (Eds.), *Wiser world with multiculturalism: Proceedings from the 24th Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology*. https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/iaccp_papers/285

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Foreword

In 2018, the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology Congress was held in Guelph, Ontario, Canada (July 1-5). The congress venue was at the University of Guelph. The opening ceremony took place on July 1st, Canada Day, a national holiday celebrating 151 years since

Canada's first milestone in 1867 to become an independent country. Participants were entertained by Tich Mareza, a Zimbabwean-Canadian Band.

The Organizing & Scientific committee consisted of Prof. Karl Hennig, University of Guelph, Canada, Prof. Michaela Hynie, York University, Canada, Prof. Catherine Kwantes (Scientific Committee-Chair), University of Windsor, Canada, and Prof. Saba Safdar (Congress Chair), University of Guelph, Canada. The international advisory committee consisted of 18 members from nine countries.

There were over 500 participants from 51 countries. Specifically, the congress brought together international scholars who investigate the nexus of culture and psychology from diverse perspectives. Symposia, paper sessions, rapid papers posters, and discussion forums in all areas of culture and psychology were presented. The Congress Proceedings is a selection of some of the presentations, which have gone through a peer-review process.

The congress theme was *Multiculturalism in a Global Perspective: Benefits and Challenges*. The theme of the conference reflected Canada's history as the first country in the world to adopt multiculturalism as an official policy in 1971. Multiculturalism also reflects psycho-social principles, such as that when all ethnicities and cultures are encouraged to share their language and heritage and have opportunities to interact with each other on a level playing field, such contact usually leads to greater mutual understanding and acceptance. Creating barriers between groups and individuals reinforces ignorance and leads to mistrust and hostility. In other words, rejection breeds rejection; acceptance breeds acceptance.

Over 650 symposia, round table discussions, oral and poster presentations were given. These exemplified academic and applied works conducted around the world. While the scholarly presentations were outstanding, the conference also offered a number of opportunities for the exchange of ideas and information.

Keynote speakers were distinguished presenters from around the world who spoke on the theme of multiculturalism. They included: Prof. Jairo E. Borges-Andrade from the University of Brasilia, Brazil, who spoke on the need to have more universal and international frames of reference in research; Prof. Michael Harris Bond from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, S.A.R., China who provided a personal reflection of a Canadian born scholar who has lived and worked in Asia for many years, focusing on enculturation to various societies as lenses that are used to make sense of the world; Prof. Judith Gibbons from Saint Louis University, USA who talked about what we can learn about multiculturalism

from Latin American psychology; Prof Ava D. Thompson from University of the Bahamas, Bahamas, who provided a Caribbean perspective on multiculturalism in education and training; and Prof. Nadezhda Lebedeva from the National Research University, Russia, who spoke on multiculturalism and intercultural relations in post-Soviet Russia.

Given that the conference was held in Canada at a special time in its history, an effort was made to include Indigenous speakers and panels. The Scientific Committee invited speakers from across Canada to bring an Indigenous voice to the conference. Prof. David Newhouse from Trent University, Canada, is Onondaga from the Six Nations of the Grand River community and Professor of Indigenous Studies was invited as a keynote speaker. In his address, he focused on modern indigeneity and the reconstruction of indigenous identities in communities around the world.

There were also two invited symposia with distinguished speakers. The first invited symposium focused on Indigenous education in Canada. The speakers were Prof. John Chenoweth from Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT), BC, Canada, who provided a Canadian perspective on Indigenous education, Prof. Verna Billy Minnabarriet, also of NVIT spoke of “An Eagle’s Gathering Place” – post secondary Indigenous education, and Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte spoke of the power of Indigenous culture and teaching. The second invited symposium focused on multiculturalism with international perspectives. The speakers were Prof. John W. Berry from Queen’s University, Canada who spoke on the meaning of multiculturalism, Prof. Colleen Ward from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, who spoke on normative culturalism in sociopolitical context, and Prof. Nadezhda Lebedeva from National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, who spoke on multiculturalism post USSR.

In addition, Prof. Sandra Jovchelovitch of the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, was the State of the Art Walt Lonner Lecture speaker. Her talk focused on human development around the world, and the role culture plays in contextual adversity across the globe.

The IACCP Early Career Award winner was Adriana Manago of the University of California, USA. Her talk provided a lens to understanding communication technologies as cultural tools. The Harry and Pola Triandis doctoral thesis award winner was Jae Chao of the University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong. Her talk explored how individuals’ diversity ideologies influence how they interpret the actions of those who cross cultures, as well as their own determinations of whether or not to cross cultures.

Post conference, participants received a short online questionnaire seeking their feedback and evaluation. The congress was rated as a success in terms of scholarly content, friendly atmosphere, accommodation, and catering to different dietary preferences.

The Congress was supported by the IACCP and generous donations from the University of Guelph and the City of Guelph. The support of University of Waterloo, University of Windsor, and Springer Publisher is also acknowledged. Furthermore, a shout out to members of the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research at the University of Guelph and student volunteers (see Figure 1). Their help in providing directions, assisting individuals with their requests, and maintaining a friendly and supportive atmosphere made the congress a success. Thank you!

Figure 1.

Some Delegates and Volunteers at the Main Hall of the Congress Venue



In addition, the 5th Culture and Psychology (C&P) School which is the educational flagship wing of the IACCP and provides opportunity to build the next Generation at IACCP took place three days prior to the congress at the University of Guelph. Participants consisted of 30 post graduate students (23 PhD and 8 Masters students) from 17 countries with the majority being Canadian (26%). The program provided a three-day workshop consisting of four streams: (1) understanding how to work with and for Canadian Indigenous communities, (2) advanced statistics, (3) theoretical and methodological aspects of research on culture and psychology; and (4) scholarly manuscript writing. Students had the option of participating in two of the four streams.

The C&P School organizing committee consisted of Dr. Alex English from Shanghai International Studies University, China, Prof. Sharon Glazer from University of Baltimore, U.S., Prof. Natasza Kosakowska-Berezecka from University of Gdansk, Poland, and Prof. Saba Safdar (Chair) from University of Guelph, Canada (see Figure 2).

Finally, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, the Scientific Committee, and the Editorial team, we would like to thank all of the volunteers who devoted time to this whole enterprise, including the student staff who gave directions to participants both inside and outside of the congress venue, the presenters who chaired their own session, panel discussants in the workshops, and, notably, the reviewers who evaluated the submissions.

Figure 2.

Participants, Instructors, and Members of the C&P School by the Gryphon Statue at the University of Guelph.



This volume, too, owes itself to the full dedication shown by the reviewers for the present submissions. We also would like to acknowledge the work and effort by the editorial assistant Katarina Marko, who ensured that the format and language of these published papers are correct. Thank you all!

These proceedings with the title “Wiser World With Multiculturalism” consist of ten papers that we sorted into three categories: The first five papers reflect the main topic of the conference about multiculturalism. A second group of paper deals with questions regarding interpersonal and interspecies relationships and culture. And last but not least, the final paper creates its own category by dealing with the importance of indigenization in cross-cultural theorizing.

The Editorial Team: Saba Safdar, Catherine Kwantes, and Wolfgang Friedlmeier