Message from the President
Nancy M. Sidun, PsyD, ABPP, ATR

Aloha! I’m so pleased to be able to communicate with you via our Newsletter - International Psychology Bulletin (IPB). As you might have noticed, there has been a gap since our last newsletter. We have been in a transition period as our 2019 appointed newsletter editor, Irene Lopez, had to resign due to an unexpected conflict; thus, a search for a new newsletter editor had to be done. Excitedly we were able to find two exceptional souls for the IPB; our new editor, Dr. Teresa Maria Sgaramella and associate editor, Dr. Stephen DiDonato. Our new editor, Dr. Sgaramella, is a Professor of Psychology of Disability and Inclusion and Rehabilitation Counseling at the Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology, at the University of Padova, Italy. She has published widely on issues of disability and inclusion and has served as an editor of a special issue of the Interdisciplinary Journal of Family Studies, focusing on migrant families with disabilities. Dr. DiDonato, our new associate editor, is an Associate Director and Assistant Professor at Jefferson University (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University) in the Community and Trauma Counseling (CTC) master's degree program and the Co-Director of the Jefferson Trauma Education Network (J-TEN). His scholarly work focuses on childhood trauma, both domestically and internationally. We are pleased to welcome Drs. Sgaramella and DiDonato to their editorial positions. I also would like to thank Dr. Lopez for her brief time as the IPB editor and look forward to when her schedule allows her to be more involved with the Division.

There is much to be excited about in the Division. Our new strategic plan is in effect and, the new bylaws, which align with the strategic plan, were approved by the membership. Our mid-winter meeting in February 2019 was a great success. We partnered with the Society of Cross Cultural Research (SCCR) conference in Jacksonville, FL, and will again in 2020. Many Division 52 members attended and presented at the SCCR conference as well as participated at our mid-winter board meeting.
I want to highlight some of the other activities of the Division in the first half of this year. Our Early Career Psychologist Committee (ECP) along with the assistance of the Student Committee sought student and ECP input about their interest in various activities in the Division geared toward students and ECPs. They developed a survey to assess interest in a mentoring program, pairing students and ECPs with mentors who are more senior members of the Division, which yielded keen interest. There are now more than 30 established mentor/mentee pairings within the Division. Additionally, they identified that the students and ECP members are interested in virtual micro-conferences. The first will occur this coming fall. Our webinar series is flourishing this year under the capable leadership of Drs. Karen Brown and Falu Rami. There have been several excellent webinars this year. Do not miss the next one on July 26—Latina Immigrants of Domestic Violence: A Phenomenological Study with Dr. DeAnza Spaulding.

Our membership committee reached out to engage other APA divisions that have an international section or committee. Twelve Divisions were given free Division 52 membership to their international section or committee chairs with the hope of providing the opportunity to collaborate more freely and to engage other internationally-minded souls to be a part of our Division’s community. We are also going to be offering free membership to the first one hundred International Affiliates beginning in 2020; in an attempt to engage APA’s International Affiliates with the desire that Division 52 will become their APA home.

Our journal, International Perspectives in Psychology (IPP) continues to offer diversified publication formats, including Policy Briefs, and integrative state-of-the-art/field reviews. As of January 17, 2019, Facebook posts about the first of these Policy Briefs had over 3000 views. The Board and pool of reviewers have been expanded to include more members of Division 52 and from within the US, as well as promoting IPP at a range of international conferences, and meetings like workshops, across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Oceania. Continuing to increase submissions was identified at our mid-winter meeting as a priority for 2019. Exciting news -- from January 1 to June 30, 2019, our submissions increased by 72% for the same time last year.

Lastly, APA’s convention next month will showcase exceptional Division 52 programming. The 2019 Convention Co-Chairs Drs. Johanna Nilsson and Yvette Flores have continued the tradition of securing stellar symposia, conversation hours, poster sessions, and suite programs, many which offer CE credits. To whet your appetite for the convention, see just some of the titles of the Division 52 programming:

- **Doing No Harm**---Psychologists Promoting Human Rights and Human Dignity in the 21st Century.
- **Untold Complexities of Human Trafficking: Climate Change, Asylum Seekers, and Intercountry Adoption.**
- **Global Psychologies and Political Crises**---Changes, Developments, Challenge.
- **Decolonizing Transnational Border Crossings**---Transforming Uncritical Exportations of U.S. Psychology.
- **Promoting the Well-Being of the LGBT Community in Different Countries**---Think Globally and Act Locally.
- **Humanitarian Trends and Lived Experiences**---Voices from the Field.
- **Migrant Perception and Reception**---Politics of Fear or Welcome?
- **International Counseling Trainees’ Experiences in Cross-Cultural Relationships in Supervision.**
- **Migration, Xenophobia, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Human Rights Among Mexicans.**

Lastly, if you are at the convention, please do plan to attend the Division 52 Social Hour, Friday, August 9, 2019 in the Marriott Marquis and the Business and Awards meeting, where Division 52 awardees and new Fellows will be acknowledged, Saturday, August 10, 2019 in McCormick Place, Room W196bc.

Nancy Sidun
Dear readers, I am truly honored to have been selected as the new Editor of the *International Psychology Bulletin of the Division 52*. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to previous editors and editorial board members for their great contributions, for the time and energy devoted to the bulletin. I asked myself what can be the meaning and role of a bulletin in a division so active like Division 52, where several different modalities of communication among members are already so active. I see the bulletin as in continuity with the wonderful work done by previous editors but also with some new spaces opened for developing readers awareness and active involvement in international psychology activities. A large space will be also devoted to **D52 Members’ Life** to representing the work and research being conducted by division members. Each issue will include at least one paper from early career psychologists, the **ECP Column**, that is a space to contributions written by young members of the division so to encourage the young colleagues participation and career. A space in this year issues will be also ensured to materials and contributions already sent to the bulletin with the **Peer Reviewed Section**. The **Who, Where and What** section will highlight key critical issues addressed and provide a short synopsis of the experiences of members of our global community of psychologists describing their work in different regions of the world, with an emphasis on how such work impacts on both professionals and people’s life. There is tremendously valuable work being done by our colleagues that often goes unrecognized and we aim to provide a forum to showcase its impact. Announcements of future meetings as well as reports from participants to recent international meetings and events will be also provided to readers. Additionally, the bulletin from the next issue will feature a new section entitled **VIP Projects** (Very International Psychology Projects). In this segment a space will be provided to projects that showcase international, intercultural and/or interdisciplinary and innovative programs, outlining the relevance of their work and its applicability to current educational and professional practice. The aim of this segment is to increase readers’ awareness of studies, protocols, procedures and other outcomes of these projects and provide them with opportunities for collaboration. The Bulletin will continue having four annual issues. Deadlines and other information are outlined on the back cover of the issue. Several members of the previous editorial board will continue their work, some new members have already joined us and new members from different countries are still welcome. I am extremely excited to be embarking on this activity and wish to express once again my gratitude to the leadership and the selection committee. Thank you all in advance for your support and efforts in continuing a strong tradition and **making IPB a unique place to explore and chart new international paths in Teaching, Research and Practice in Psychology**

*Teresa M. Sgaramella*
Every year, the World Economic Forum chooses 100 people under the age of 40 into its prestigious Young Global Leaders (YGL) forum that they tap as future leaders and visionaries of the world. Across thousands of nominations and a one year interview process, Division 52 member Dr. Anjhula Mya Singh Bais was selected for her worldwide efforts to destigmatize mental health.

Previous honourees have included current New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden, current President of France Emmanuel Macron, Google’s Larry Page and human rights lawyer Amal Clooney. It is the unprecedented first time for a doctor and human rights activist to come out of Malaysia, with more than 60% honourees stemming from the business sector. With over 2,000 worldwide nominations, 120 change makers joined the 2019 class.

Dr. Bais is only the 6th psychologist in the 15 year history of this prestigious leadership group and the only psychologist in 2019. This years cohort includes heads of state and ministers from every continent. Bais completed her masters in London and her PhD from Chicago, chairs the board of governance for Amnesty International Malaysia and is a board member for the Institute of Semitics, Princeton.

In response to the honour, Dr. Bais wrote for the World Economic Forum blog with a readership of over a million highlighting the intersectionality of human rights and psychology.

Karna, Iravan
Director@bais-selvanathan.org

Anjhula Mya Singh Bais, PhD is a psychologist and activist who currently chairs the Board of Governance of Amnesty International Malaysia. For any inquiries, contact: anjhula@internationalpsychology.com

Dr. Claudette Atuna featured on the landing page of apa.org featuring her podcast in the Speaking of Psychology Series titled, "On the Front Lines of the Immigration Crisis."

“It's great to see a division 52 member taking leadership in informing psychologists regarding this horrific circumstance in our history replete with violations of fundamental human rights. This is another example of how much our knowledgeable and resourceful members have so much to offer our society and our global society.”

Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D., ABPP
nealrubin@hotmail.com
Awards Announcement

Division 52 is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2019 awards, celebrating colleagues who exemplify excellence in research, teaching and service.

Outstanding International Psychologist

Awards for Outstanding International Psychologist recognize contributions to international psychology through significant research, teaching, advocacy, and/or contributions to international organizations.

Psychologist in the United States

Dr. Elena Grigorenko

Dr. Grigorenko is affiliated with five universities: Baylor College of Medicine, University of Houston, and Yale University in the USA, and Moscow State University for Psychology and Education and St. Petersburg State University in Russia. Dr. Grigorenko has worked with children and their families in the USA as well as in Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar, Ghana, the Gambia, and Zambia), India, Saudi Arabia, and Russia.

Psychologist Outside the United States

Dr. Reza Zamani

Dr. Zamani has assumed many leadership positions in Iran, including professor and department chair at the University of Tehran, Iran, director of the Institute of Psychology, director of the Institute for Cognitive Science Studies, and co-founder (in 1975) and currently president of the Iranian Psychological Association. He has published broadly, including a technical psychology English-Persian dictionary.

Outstanding Early Career International Psychologists

The ECP Awards are granted to early career psychologists of Division 52 who have made significant contributions to the field of International Psychology.

Psychologist in the United States

Dr. Laura Dryjanska

Dr. Dryjanska is Assistant Professor at the Biola University, Rosemead School of Psychology, Los Angeles, California. Her research interests include social representations applied to diverse fields: migration, human trafficking, inter-generational solidarity, ageing, place-identity, and organizational psychology. She received graduate education at the Sapienza University, Rome, and also taught in Warsaw, Poland.
Psychologist outside the United States
Dr. Juan Antonio Valdivia Vázquez

Dr. Valdivia is at the Tecnológico de Monterrey School of Medicine, Antonio where his research group studies aspects related to health education programs. He also works on the cultural and linguistic appropriateness of educational and psychological measures used for Spanish-language speakers living in the U.S. and Mexico, including samples of Mexican individuals who grew up in the U.S., but returned to Mexico. He was a Fulbright scholar and received his PhD from Washington State University, and earlier degrees from Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo-León (México).

Henry David International Mentoring Award

The Henry David International Mentoring Award is presented annually to a member or affiliate of Division 52 who plays an exceptional mentoring role in an international context.

Dr. Chiachih DC Wang

Chiachih DC Wang, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of North Texas (UNT), licensed psychologist and the Director of Clinical Training for the Counseling Psychology Ph.D. Program. In his 15 years as a university faculty, he has directly mentored ten international graduate students at his home university and provided consultation and advice to numerous international students and junior faculty at other universities. His research areas include cross-cultural variation of adult attachment, acculturation and adjustment of immigrant individuals and international students, and ethnic/racial identity development.

Anastasi Graduate Student Research Award

This award, named for Anne Anastasi and funded by a donation from the Anne Anastasi Foundation, goes to two outstanding graduate student researchers, with priority given to research that focuses on psychometrics and differential psychology.

Early Graduate Student (first two years)

Stylianos Syropoulos

Stylianos Syropoulos received his B.A. in Psychology from Franklin & Marshall College and is currently a PhD student at UMass in the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program (Social Psychology Division). Stylianos’ research interests focus on the examination of personal safety, peace and violence, intergroup conflict and morality within the United States and in a cross-cultural setting.
**Anastasi Graduate Student Research Award**

This award, named for Anne Anastasi and funded by a donation from the Anne Anastasi Foundation, goes to two outstanding graduate student researchers, with priority given to research that focuses on psychometrics and differential psychology.

**Later Graduate Student (last two years)**

**Tyler Collette**

Tyler Collette received a B.A. in Anthropology from The University of Texas at San Antonio and an M.S. in Sociology from Texas A&M University – Kingsville. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Psychology at UTSA where he recently received the Baird Fellowship. He has conducted research abroad with collaborations in Spain and Japan. His research focuses on attitude change, morality, and underlying processes for anxiety and related disorders.

**Student International Research Award**

Division 52, International Psychology, offers the International Research Award to encourage and recognize promising undergraduate and graduate student research in international psychology.

**Madeleine Stenersen**

Madeline Stenersen is a doctoral student in Counseling Psychology at the University of Memphis, and doing her internship at Yale University Psychiatry. Her primary research interests include international psychology, prevention work with offenders, and attitudes towards individuals who sell sex across the continuum of agency. Madeline hopes to work with an inter-governmental organization to further examine the effects of attitudes, stigma, and discrimination towards individuals who sell sex and other marginalized populations in the United States and globally.

**Congratulations !!!**

**New!!!**

**APA Division 52 Global Citizen Psychologist Award**

Division 52 received a grant from APA Citizen Psychologist Initiative to develop a global version of the award. The APA Division 52 Global Citizen Psychologist Award will begin in 2020. This award will recognize colleagues outside the US and Canada who use psychology expertise in volunteer activities outside their workplace to benefit their local, national or international community. **Nominations will be received after August, 2019. Begin to identify possible nominees now!**


**More information on:** https://www.div52.net/index.php/awards
My name is Kate Poelker and I am delighted to be serving as the Division 52 Early Career Psychologist (ECP) Committee Chair in 2019. I am so impressed by the diversity, talent, and enthusiasm among the ECPs in this Division, and I’m honored to serve and work with them in this way. From 2017-2019, I was an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Hope College in Holland, MI. In July 2019, I am beginning a new role as a Learning Analytics Analyst at Edward Jones in St. Louis, MO. I became interested in Division 52 because of my research on youth in Guatemala that I began conducting during graduate school. Members of our Division are so supportive of and invested in the ECP community, and I have found this group to be a wonderful professional home.

I am excited for the Division’s future – especially for ECPs. One of my goals is to make sure that all ECPs – whether their work lies in academia, clinical practice, research, or the non-profit sector – feel connected to and invested in the Division. Over the course of the year, my committee members and I are looking forward to pioneering several initiatives. For example, with the help of Ashley Randall, Division 52 ECP Mentoring Program Chair, and Adetutu Ajibose, Division 52 Student Chair, we launched a mentoring initiative to connect graduate students and ECPs with more senior members of our Division. Mentors and mentees will have the chance to connect at the APA Convention on Thursday afternoon at 3 pm in the Division 52 suite.

We are also considering other ways to keep ECPs connected with one another throughout the year. We all seem to experience an influx of enthusiasm about APA around the time of Convention, but once that event passes, we aren’t always great at keeping up with one another. Members of the ECP Committee, along with Dr. Lynette Bikos, VP of Engagement, are planning our first micro-conference where you can (virtually) attend a series of presentations organized around a common theme. We’d love to hear from YOU about other events and networking opportunities that would be useful.

The ECP and Student Committees are planning a social event during Convention. It will be fun to take a break to catch up with each other and learn about our latest work and projects. Feel free to email me if you have any suggestions about how we can best utilize our time together during Convention.

Don’t forget that you can keep up with the ECPs on Facebook (search ECP-Division 52 of APA) and you can also join the Division 52 ECP email ListServ. Also, be sure to keep an eye out for our new Instagram account. Details to follow! For example, we can find out more details regarding the social event at Convention via those outlets.

If you’re interested in becoming more involved with the ECP Committee or just want to learn more about what we are doing, don’t hesitate to send me an email (katepoelker@gmail.com). I’d love to hear from you!

Warm wishes,
Kate
Abstract

Yoselyn Ortega, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic (DR), was accused of the unspeakable crime of stabbing to death two young children while she was their nanny. She became known as the Nanny Killer. The first author was qualified as an Expert Witness to the Supreme Court of the State of New York, to provide testimony in defense of Ms. Ortega’s plea of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI). Reflections of the social cultural aspects of the trial were presented at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo, DR, in July of 2018. The critical analysis and interactive discussion focused on stigma about mental illness, cultural beliefs about mental illness among Latino immigrants and Dominicans in the DR, mental health services in the DR and the differences in legal prosecution of persons with severe mental illness in the DR versus the United States. In this era of globalization, understanding the social, political and cultural constructs of mental illness and the transnational intersections of mental illness with the criminal justice system is key to the provision of effective and equitable mental health services.

Keywords: mental illness, Hispanics, stigma, criminal defense, immigration, forensic psychology
Yoselyn Ortega, “the Nanny Killer,” was a 50-year-old Dominican immigrant when she murdered two young children whom she cared for in a wealthy Upper East Side New York family in 2012. She was convicted of two counts of Murder in the First Degree in 2018. The defense argued that this crime was committed by a woman who experienced untreated psychosis since her adolescence in the Dominican Republic (DR) and that mental health services in the DR were so lacking that it would have been impossible for her to receive an appropriate diagnosis and treatment. Moreover, the stigma of mental illness prevented her disclosure of the voices she was hearing and her belief that the devil was inside of her, telling her to do unspeakable things. The prosecution argued that her motivation for the brutal “butchering” was jealousy, class differences and the revenge of the have-nots. Was Ms. Ortega tried and convicted by the media echoing the current anti-Hispanic immigrant sentiment in its sensationalistic reporting of the crime? The trial became a reality TV horror show as each bloody knife and graphic crime scene was displayed for public media consumption. We, however, pondered how a trusted employee, a member of the family for two years, could bring herself to murder her beloved charges. The question at the heart of this trial was not about guilt or innocence, nor the legal definition of insanity and the medical definition of mental illness, but about motivation, and the social construct of “evil,” which was the label applied to Ms. Ortega by the parents of the slain children.

The first author, Dr. Caplan, was qualified as an Expert Witness for the Defense by Judge Carro. The role of an expert witness is to educate the court on subject matter beyond what a layperson might know (Torry & Billick, 2010), which in this proceeding included mental health services in the DR, stigma about mental illness, Latino immigrants, and religious causal beliefs about depression. Ms. Ortega had been in Riker’s Island Prison Complex since the slaying in 2012. She would not stand trial in New York State Supreme Court until the Spring of 2018, when she would plead “Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity” (NGRI) for the murder of the two Krim children who were under her care. This manuscript represents a conceptual analysis of sociocultural factors in Forensic Psychology and proceedings from a conference on crime and mental health (Caplan & Diaz, 2018).

Psychosocial History of Ms. Ortega

Ms. Ortega grew up in Santiago de Caballeros in the DR. At age 7, she began working in her father’s bodega or grocery store. When Ms. Ortega was 16, her younger sister died suddenly of a cerebral aneurism, which precipitated Ms. Ortega’s first symptoms of mental illness. According to her family, she was not “normal”, but was hysterical and depressed. She was inconsolable, had stopped eating, and lost a lot of weight. Ms. Ortega reported that it was at this time that she started hearing voices, however, she did not disclose this to her family, who perceived her to be depressed. The family, alarmed by her behavior, brought her to someone they described as a psychologist, who treated her with “some kind of medicine” to calm her nerves. The family could not recall the name of the medication. A year later, Ms. Ortega felt better and resumed work at the bodega, although the voices never went away. However, she didn’t tell anyone about the voices because she feared people would think she was crazy (Rosenbaum, 2015). Since the age of 16, she had three subsequent reported episodes of severe depression, at age 37, when her mother died, then at age 44, and most recently in 2012, at age 48. These episodes were accompanied by bizarre behavior as well as auditory and visual hallucinations of the Devil or a “Black Man”, which is an expression that some people in the DR associate with the devil, black magic, and the occult, but has no racial connotations (Luciano, Nadal, Brito, Negrete, & Contreras, 2019). People in the Dominican Republic who subscribe to these magico-religious beliefs, particularly those associated with demonic possession, are sometimes labeled as crazy, deranged, lunatic, or demented (Luciano, et al., 2019). Ms. Ortega, however, always referred to the auditory hallucinations as being caused by her severe headaches.

Throughout her adulthood Ms. Ortega migrated between the DR and New York. She first migrated to
the United States in 1983, at age 19, to be near her mother, who was living in New York. She later returned to
the DR after three months to complete her university studies in accounting and then returned to the United
States, where she worked in printing. After five years in the United States (US), she became a citizen (Khadivi,
2015). She was married for the second of three times in 1992 and had a son, Jesus, in 1995, who was raised by
her sister in the DR, while she worked in the United States. In 2008, when she had returned to the DR to be with
her son, according to her sisters, she had an episode of extreme fearfulness, whereby she hid under the bed, ref-
used to go out, and did not let her son participate in his usual activities. She also, once again, stopped eating.
Ms. Ortega attributed her fearfulness to the high level of street violence in the DR at this time. During her recur-
rent episodes of depression and bizarre behavior, her sisters would put her to bed with aspirin and tea and ask
her to pray, although they also encouraged her to seek formal mental health services in the DR, which she never
did.

Two years later, in 2010, she began working for the Krim family in the US. Mr. Krim was a media execu-
tive and Mrs. Krim did not work outside the home. The family was upper class. She cared for the Krim’s two chil-
dren, Leo, an infant, and Lucia, age four, whom, by all accounts, she dearly loved. She was close to the Krim fam-
ily and the Krims reported a close relationship with Ms. Ortega, treating her as one of the family. They even trav-
eled to the DR with Ms. Ortega and stayed with her extended family. The family reported that they never noticed
anything wrong with Ms. Ortega, except that Ms. Ortega complained when she was asked to clean in addition to
her child care responsibilities because she felt the cleaning products were damaging to her skin. Despite the
close relationship, Ms. Ortega expressed distress that although she had worked for the Krims several days a
week for two years, the Krims never gave her regular hours. Additionally, they would ask her to work at the last
minute, when she would drop everything to show up for work. She also was asked to work for another family,
while the Krims went away on vacation.

In 2012, she brought her son, Jesus, back from the DR to live with her in the Bronx. Due to her irregular
work schedule and insufficient income, her precarious financial situation contributed to the most recent episode
of anxiety and depression at age 48. While living in the Bronx, she was involved with a Christian church, and dur-
ing her decompensation, she would send prayer cards to friends and relatives and ask them to pray for her be-
cause she believed that something evil was inside of her that was trying to separate her from her family. Accord-
ing to friends and family members, three days prior to the killings, she was so distraught that she was crying hys-
terically, acting bizarrely, and reporting tactile and auditory hallucinations. A close friend’s son told his mother
that he believed that Ms. Ortega needed to see a psychologist. With her friend’s insistence, Ms. Ortega was
brought to Dr. Thomas Caffrey, a clinical psychologist. In the initial and only visit, Dr. Caffrey wrote in his notes
that Ms. Ortega had chronic depression and an anxiety disorder. However, Dr. Caffrey never asked Ms. Ortega if
she was hearing voices or if she was hallucinating and Ms. Ortega also did not volunteer the information.

Three days later, Ms. Ortega stabbed to death the two Krim children. Mrs. Krim came home to find Ms.
Ortega in the bathroom with the bodies of the two children when she plunged a large kitchen knife into her own
neck with such blunt force trauma that she fractured her spinal vertebrae at C5 and C6. Mrs. Krim’s screams
alerted the building’s superintendent, who surveyed the scene and summoned the police. When the police ar-
rived, Ms. Ortega was found unconscious on the bathroom floor. As a witness for the prosecution, Dr. Caffrey
defended his diagnosis and maintained that Ms. Ortega did not have a psychotic disorder. However, after her
attempted suicide, the psychiatrists involved with her care at New York Presbyterian Cornell Hospital labeled her
symptoms as consistent with Major Depression with Psychotic features, while the forensic psychiatrist for the
defense testified that her DSM-5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) diagnoses were Other Specified Schiz-
ophrenia Spectrum Disorder and Other Psychotic Disorder, as well as Other Generalized Anxiety Disorder, along
with Mild Neurocognitive Disorder due to Traumatic Brain Injury (Rosenbaum, 2015).
Conceptual Analysis of Sociocultural Factors

Immigrants in the United States are often labeled “aliens” conveying their status as not belonging and being less than people who were born here. This leads to misunderstanding, mistrust, and misjudgment, particularly in legal proceedings (Evans & Hass, 2018). In addition to immigrant status, gender, age, ability, sexual identity, race, socioeconomic status, and religious orientation create intersecting identities that can shape the immigrant experience and create further marginalization and distress (Reid, Lewis, & Wyche, 2014). It is essential for the forensic psychologist to assess and integrate these multiple identities in order to present an accurate picture of the psychological functioning of the individual (Evans & Hass, 2018). The analysis presented during the trial and the reflections carried out at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo help us understand that Ms. Ortega very likely suffered a mental disorder from an early age, but this was never diagnosed or treated properly due to societal and self-stigma that exists in the Dominican Republic. Ms. Ortega was stigmatized again when the crime occurred, and very little attention was given to the intersecting factors that contributed to her mental status preceding and at the time of the crime. The jury’s final decision was based on the evidence presented at the trial, however, that decision may have been based upon a lack of complete information about Ms. Ortega’s life and pathology. How could Ms. Ortega have killed the children she loved? How did the jury ultimately decide she was guilty of murder? An analysis of the ethical and sociopolitical factors of the trial include: mental health services in the DR, stigma about mental illness, intercultural ethical awareness, anti-immigrant sentiment, and the Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) defense.

Mental Health Services in the DR

One of the most frustrating and puzzling aspects of the trial was the absence of any medical collateral documentation of a history of treatment for mental illness for the Defendant for the period of time she lived in the Dominican Republic. One explanation for the lack of documented history of mental illness was that Ms. Ortega may have somatized her symptoms of mental illness in the past. In the DR, she was treated for repeated bouts of headaches by neurologists and general medical providers, who apparently never asked about depression or other possible symptoms of mental illness. Dr. Caplan testified in March of 2018 that general screening for depression was not a routine practice in the DR. Depression, in this context, was considered a temporary, minor mood state and not a mental illness requiring treatment (Caplan et al., 2018; Luciano et al., 2019). Even in 2018, antipsychotics are not readily available for those who need them due to their high costs and insufficient supply in certain geographic regions (Ministerio de Salud Pública, 2014).

Stigma

In addition to lack of resources, there is a long standing stigma against those who are mentally ill in the DR. This stigma results in stereotyping, prejudice, and discriminatory behaviors that diminish a person’s likelihood of becoming a contributing member of the society (Link & Phalen, 2001). In the DR, serious mental illness in one’s family creates stigma, shame and economic burdens as it is believed that a person with mental illness could not be expected to get a job and contribute to the family.

In addition to such societal stigma, it is possible that Ms. Ortega was also afraid or ashamed to discuss her problems. Self-stigma is the internalization of negative appraisals by others and results in a negative self-concept, low self-esteem, and low self-efficacy (Corrigan, 2012). Self-stigma affects help-seeking behavior, increasing the likelihood of attempting to conceal or deny one’s mental illness and avoid diagnostic labels that lead one to be associated with the stigmatized group (Abdullah & Brown, 2011). On the two occasions when Ms. Ortega did seek treatment for depression, she did not mention her auditory and tactile hallucinations to the people who were responsible for her care. In fact, several months after the crime was committed, in a videotaped interview with the prosecuting forensic psychiatrist, she denied hearing voices from the Devil. This evidence, which was presented to the jury, was used by the prosecuting psychiatrist to assert that she was feigning her symptoms of insanity, so that she could evade sentencing for pre-meditated murder. However, self-stigma of mental illness may explain why Ms. Ortega undermined her insanity defense.
Anti-immigrant Sentiment in the United States

Fear of people who are different from us in terms of religious beliefs, ethnicity, gender identity, or nationality is deeply rooted in our innate survival instinct and leads us to define people as “other” or “stranger” (Evans & Hass, 2018). The key actors in this trial, judges, lawyers, and evaluating psychologists, are subject to the same misunderstanding and perceptions as the “other” as the rest of society. President Trump declared “We cannot let people enter our country. We have no idea who they are . . . we do not know if they are murderers, if they are killers . . .” (Fredericks, 2018). Ms. Ortega, a naturalized US citizen, fit this stereotypical profile. However, according to research, immigrants commit crimes at significantly lower rates than non-immigrants, and make up a lower percentage of the prison population relative to non-immigrants (Ghandnoosh & Rovner, 2017). Additionally, historically low levels of violent crime in recent decades can, in fact, be attributed to the increase in immigration during the same time period, with communities with the largest percentages of immigrants seeing the greatest diminution in violent crime (Ghandnoosh & Rovner, 2017). Despite these facts, there is growing and persistent anti-immigrant sentiment that characterizes immigrants as prone to malicious violence and criminal behavior. Unconscious bias can lead to misunderstanding of cultural differences and life experiences, miscommunication and negative evaluation of an individual’s motives (Evans & Hass, 2018). Although Ms. Ortega was dangerous due to untreated mental illness, Ms. Ortega was convicted of her character flaws, perceptions that her motivation stemmed from her inherent maliciousness and “evil”. Ultimately, the jury could not see her actions as stemming from a mental illness.

Intercultural Ethical Awareness

Cultural misunderstandings can influence and distort discretionary legal interpretations (Evans & Hass, 2018). The interpretations and judgments attributed to Ms. Ortega’s family can be understood in the framework of two possible ethical positions; ethical absolutism and relativism (Ting-Toomey, 2011). Ethical absolutism posits an absolute right and wrong according to a standard of ethics that is applied universally irrespective of cultural context (an etic perspective). Ethical relativism infers that the cultural context is the guiding construct in which to determine the rightness or wrongness of a particular behavior. Behaviors must be evaluated from an insider’s (or emic) perspective with an understanding of that culture’s values and beliefs. The Prosecution relied upon ethical absolutism to persuade the jury. Many of the witnesses called by the defense represented an elaborate network of siblings and extended family members to testify to Ms. Ortega’s state of mind at the time of the murders. The counterargument by the prosecution to each testimony was used as evidence of the family member’s duplicity, collusion, and failure to acknowledge responsibility for their own denial of Ms. Ortega’s illness. The media and public’s reaction to the Ortega family’s actions or inaction also depicted an ethical absolutism or etic perspective. “The defendant’s family not taking any responsibility for their role in this really makes [the Krim] mad,” the source said. “It’s truly infuriating.” (Ransom & McKinley, 2018). The Ortega’s family was depicted as a “safety net” that had been “weaponized,” “shooting the most dangerous member of another family into theirs [the Krim’s],” (O’Connor, 2018b). Responses from England to an article in the Daily Mall evidenced a similar Eurocentric moral judgment. A statement from Sara from Perth (2018) illustrated her judgment about the family’s failure to take responsibility for their actions “. . . her sister has shown the true colours of the family, blame blame, blame. . . I am truly shocked by her comments. What type of person thinks like that? Wicked people.” From a position of ethical absolutism, Ms. Ortega’s family and friends were evil people.

In contrast, to the predominant presentation of an ethical absolutist perspective, the authors elicited an emic perspective from the conference proceedings related to the trial (Caplan & Diaz, 2018). We questioned the audience in the Dominican Republic about Dominican values and mores, during the conference proceedings. We sought to identify the audience’s interpretations of a family member’s actions to derive an ethically relative understanding. From the perspective of the media and prosecution, the most egregious actions on the part of the family were their recommendation of Ms. Ortega to the Krim in spite of knowing of her mental illness; the attempts to defend her by finding fault with the Krim; and their own denial of any failure to act on behalf of Ms. Ortega during her illness. The audience pointed out how difficult it is for someone of Latino cultural
background to not defend their relatives, even knowing that their relative had done something wrong. This perspective can be viewed as consistent with the cultural value of “familismo”, which entails a strong moral obligation to defend and protect the family.

The family’s protection of Ms. Ortega was ethically justifiable in a worldview of ethical relativism.

The NGRI Defense: a Comparison between the DR and the United States

In the closing arguments of the trial the Assistant District Attorney stated: “She did it intentionally with a full understanding of exactly what it was she was doing” (Jacobs, 2018). In the United States, the insanity defense according to the Model Penal Code states that by reason of mental defect a person cannot control his/her behavior, cannot distinguish between right and wrong, and does not understand the consequences of their actions (Torry & Billick, 2010). However, insanity is not the same as the medical definition of psychosis. Many people who commit crimes while psychotic are not deemed to be NGRI. In the case of Ms. Ortega, the jury pondered how was it possible that someone could be so insane as to not know what she was doing and yet, still function well enough to hold a job.

If Ms. Ortega had committed the same crime in the DR, what would have been her fate? As in the United States, the criminal code in the DR establishes that in case of insanity, a person cannot be found guilty of committing a crime. To establish a plea of insanity, one must confirm that the defendant was diagnosed with a mental illness that impaired his or her reasoning and ability to distinguish between right and wrong at the time of the crime. However, unlike the United States, the sentencing for Ms. Ortega would have included the mitigating factors of her mental illness and her self-harm at the time of the crime, although these factors would not have exonerated her. If the jury had reached a similar verdict of Murder in the First Degree, she could have received the maximum penalty in the DR of 30 years, which is still significantly less time than present sentencing laws in the United States (Código Penal Dominicano, 2007). Furthermore, in the DR, this sentence would be carried out in a prison although in cases where insanity had been demonstrated, the judge could determine that the sentence take place in a psychiatric hospital (although there are no specialized forensic psychiatric hospitals or forensic units within psychiatric hospitals in the DR).

Additionally, cultural norms often serve to protect persons with mental illness from prosecution. In many cases where a person is known in a community to have a long-standing mental illness, neighbors or community members who have knowledge of a crime committed by that person will not report the crime to the police, because they understand that the person committing the crime has no understanding of what they were doing, and neighbors have a sense of loyalty to the family (Salazar, 2016). In this manner, many crimes committed by persons with severe mental illness are never brought to trial.

Epilogue and Implications for Clinical Forensic Psychology Practice

On May 14, 2018, Yoselyn Ortega was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. “Judge Gregory Carro referred to Ortega as ‘pure evil’ and said she should spend the rest of her life in prison” (Crimesider Staff, 2018). There were many victims in this tragic case. If Ms. Ortega’s symptoms and disorder could have been identified and appropriately treated at their onset, before arriving in the United States, this horrific crime may have been averted.

Clearly, the needs of persons with mental illness cannot be met in our current legal system in the United States. Although her mental state at the time of the crime could not be legally demonstrated, the reality is that there was enough information to understand that she needed specialized clinical mental health care. This trial has far-reaching implications related to stigma of mental illness and lack of mental health services, the criminal justice system, ethics and intercultural awareness.

This case study is a cautionary tale that highlights the need to ensure that mental health care services are on the forefront of global public health initiatives, in terms of increased access to care, training of health care providers to identify and treat disorders among immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities and, lastly, to provide effective
population-based mental health literacy interventions.

References


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The Federal Republic of Nigeria, commonly referred to as Nigeria, is a federal republic in West Africa, bordering Niger in the north, Chad in the northeast, Cameroon in the east, and Benin in the west. Its coast in the south is located on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. The federation comprises 36 States and 1 Federal Capital Territory, where the capital Abuja is located. Nigeria is officially a democratic secular country, founded on October 01, 1960, with a population of 174.51 million (per 2013 reports) and GDP of 4397.47 Billion USD (per 2018 reports). Although English is the official language in the country, Nigeria’s large population is responsible for its linguistic diversity which is like a microcosm of Africa as a whole. Despite the efforts made by the Nigerian government and international groups, Nigeria is still in great need of emotional healing. The political conflict has been going on for over a decade. In November 2010 the federal government pledged to deploy more resources to the communities of the Niger Delta to boost development and help restore and sustain peace. The Niger Delta is a prominent region of the southern part of Nigeria. It is 70,000 square kilometers comprised of the following states: Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross Rivers, as well as Edo, Abia, Imo and Ondo States. About one third of the land is made up of wetlands, swamp, mangrove forest and meandering waterways that stretch for 300 miles from the Benin River in the west to the Cross River in the east. It is Africa’s largest Delta and the world’s third largest mangrove (Taylor, 2007).

Violence Against Women & Political Unrest
Analyzing the genesis of modern-day brutality against people, especially women, in the Niger Delta area of Nigeria, scholars have pointed to the beginning of exploration and exploitation of oil in the area. According to these community the exploitation of oil resources in the Niger Delta has resulted in economic and environmental conflicts, with the women bearing the brunt of the situation. Studies have shown that oil provides over 90% of Nigeria’s foreign exchange earnings, yet the people of the Niger Delta, especially the women are among the poorest in Nigeria.
Available evidence indicates that women in the Niger Delta area were subjected to all kinds of violence including sexual (i.e., rape), physical (i.e., beating, maiming and murder), and the destruction of property. They have suffered unimaginable human right abuses for which redress is unattainable because their husbands and sons have been killed or maimed in the conflict and women have had to assume burdensome responsibilities as heads of households (Akubor, Emmanuel;2011).
Urgent help in post trauma healing is needed in the Niger Delta area. Many residents of the region have been victimized and traumatized by the ongoing conflicts. While a lot of attention has been devoted to stabilizing oil production, little has been done to address the mental health needs of the residents of this region.

Nigerian Culture, Literacy, Health, Religion & Politics
Nigerian’s culture is influenced by several different ethnic groups, who all determine the country’s food, clothing, and overall culture. With around 250 ethnic groups, Nigeria has extensive and diverse list of traditions and customs. Education is extremely important and valued: adult literacy rate is 59.6% in 2015 up from 51.1% in 2008. Nigeria has one of the most complicated healthcare systems in Africa. Health standards, as measured by life expectancy, in Nigeria have increased since 1950, although progress has not been steady. Maternal mortality rate appears to have increased between 1990 and 2010. According to the latest World Health Organization (WHO, 2018) data, life expectancy in Nigeria is 54.7 years for men and 55.7 years of women with a total life expectancy of 55.2 years.
This gives Nigeria a world life expectancy ranking of 178. Religion is an important phenomenon in contemporary Nigeria as it affects every segment of the Nigerian society. There are three primary religions in Nigeria: Christianity (53%), Islam (45%), and African Traditional Religion (2%). Politically, Nigeria has 68 political parties with the most popular being the People’s Democratic Party (PDP), the All Progressive Congress (APC), and the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

**ATOP Meaningfulworld Goals**

The Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP) Meaningfulworld ([www.meaningfulworld.com](http://www.meaningfulworld.com)) is an international charitable organization devoted to fostering a meaningful, peaceful, and just world. ATOP has planned a Mental Health Outreach Project (MHOP) to the Niger Delta region, set for the middle of June 2019. ATOP team members are trained in the 7-Step Integrative Healing Model, which will be implemented. Peace building and conflict transformation trainings are scheduled to take place at several universities, orphanages, older age homes, police, Ministries of Health, Education and Social Welfare, and other community centers. Our goals are three pronged: 1. Healing and Education; 2. Research and Publications; 3. Policy Revisions and Developing Sustainable Programs.

The following goals are established: 1. Healing groups; 2. Educational workshops on Emotional Intelligence and Post Trauma Healing; 3. Planting Trees and Nurturing Healthy Ecology; 4. Working with children, adolescents, adults, with men and women; 5. Establishing Peace & Forgiveness Gardens; 6. Transforming Horizontal Violence and Generationally Transmitted Trauma; and 7. Sharing the 7-Step Integrative Healing Model.

**Our Collaborators**

Our collaborators are the University of Lagos, Department of Peace and Ethnic Studies, UN Agencies in Lagos, Centre for Human Development & Social Transformation (CHDST), Positive Change Alliance, a coalition of NGOs, as well as the King Agada IV, Ekpetiama Kingdom in Bayelsa State.

ATOP Meaningfulworld has spearheaded humanitarian missions in the past 30 years in over 46 countries and 25 States in USA, in response to both human-made and natural disasters. This humanitarian mission will be spearheaded by Dr. Kalayjian, Founder and President of ATOP Meaningfulworld. Volunteers are welcome.
The Congress, as in the introduction made by Yury P. Zinchenko, President of the Russian Psychological Society and of the Russian Academy of Education, involved both practitioners and scientists with a common interest in psychology that he defined as “one of the most intriguing, topical and effective sciences, which has all the potentials to help humanity in solving most of the problems that the civilization faces today”.

The main theme was “Psychology: creating the future together”. The intention was to make ECP2019 a platform for bridging different psychological traditions, dialog, exchange information to create a better future together. And this was clearly evidenced by the “plus” sign that characterizes the different tracks, linking together psychology and several different life domains.

In this wide range of topics and disciplines, the interest clearly emerged on international psychology as shown by a relevant number of presentations, posters and symposia. The main issue addressed in this respect was migration. It is a global issue that impacts receiving, transit, and countries of origin. It at the same time impacts identities for families, organizations, and communities thus supporting the need and the importance of national and regional partnerships. Personal connection with the territory of residence (regional identity) remains highly significant for modern people; it defines the motives of their regionally focused behavior. The need of specific theoretical approaches in dealing with these issues and an emphasis on grounded theory was addressed during the symposium organized by Pamela Maras (UK).

Migration issues have also been the starting point for addressing the theme of professional identity and international recognition of psychologists. Some key themes emerged:

- **Competence as needed common language for developing professional identity and international recognition.** This was the core theme of the two symposia organized by Sverre Leonhard Nielsen (Oslo, Norway) with researchers from University of Waikato in New Zealand, colleagues from the Chinese Academy of Sciences the University of Bucharest (Romania) as well as from Limpopo (Mankweng, South Africa). The *International Declaration on Core Competences in Professional Psychology*, was the main reference in this analysis. An updated report on the use of the Declaration was provided together with proposals for a continuation.

- **Understanding self as “bearer of culture”**. This implies recognizing at the same time a culturally bound professional identity (Andranik Suleimanian, Moskovskiy Gorodskoy Psihologo-Pedagogicheskiy Universitet (Moscow, Russia) and recognizing a specific role in creating an equitable world (Moana Waitoki from Waikato, New Zealand).
The need for space to news issues and goals as in recent international approaches and in the Agenda 2030. The results of the CMinaR Erasmus+ project 2017-2019 (Counseling Migrants and Refugees) Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Sweden, Lithuania and Turkey show the relevance of addressing issues such as reflexivity, language issues, migration complexity in education and training for psychologists, in particular for those involved in counseling and to work beyond supportive measures.

The need to develop educational programs (PhD and MA) was also underlined, with the aim of creating a contextualized, internationally relevant, and responsive psychology, “understanding challenging contemporary topics that are not geographically bound and which have a psychological dimension (cause, effect, mediation, moderation); designing contextualized, ethical, and socially responsible actions to address these challenges and support individual and social well-being” (Stevens & McGrath, 2017). Concrete examples were provided such as the Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Chicago, USA).

In more general terms, the relevance of an international perspective and the role of international psychological associations in educating policy makers about immigration, public health and refugee access to care was underlined addressed. This was, for instance, the core theme of a symposium proposed by Amanda Clinton, Sofia Ramalho, Anders Wahlberg, Simon Goodman and Ellen Garrison by exploring the role of psychology in relation to immigration in Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Representatives of international, regional and national associations were also invited to discuss. Additionally, as in previous editions of the congress, a satellite meeting was held on the International Project on Competence in Psychology (IPCP).

A final note is relevant on the tracks suggested by the organizers. Themes addressed with an international and intercultural perspective could be found both in the Psychology AND Sciences (Psychological testing and assessment, Organizational psychology); Psychology AND Education (Child and youth psychology, Educational and school psychology, Language psychology and linguistics, Personality psychology, Developmental psychology); Psychology AND Health (Counselling psychology, Crisis, emergency) but more particularly in Psychology AND Society track, that is in studies referring to Community psychology, Cross-cultural psychology, Environmental psychology, Family psychology, Human rights and humanitarian issues, Political psychology, Promotion and prevention issues.

Report by Teresa M. Sgaramella
The International Congress of Psychology (ICP) is organised every four years. After a long history, the first ICP Congress was held in Paris in 1889, the ICP has become one of the largest international psychological events.

The main organiser of the 32nd ICP is the Czech and Moravian Psychological Society (ČMPS), strongly supported by the Union of Psychological Associations of the Czech Republic (UPA ČR) and under the auspices of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS).

ICP 2020 will feature an Emerging Psychologists’ Programme as an integral part of the scientific programme. The Emerging Psychologists’ Programme is intended to enhance communication between Emerging Psychologists from different countries and diverse cultural backgrounds, to promote exchange of knowledge between established and younger scientists, and to help younger scientists acquire new insights into specific fields of psychology and psychology in general.

EPP Call for Applications and EPP Application Form are available online on [http://www.icp2020.com/scientific-program/emerging-psychologists-programme/](http://www.icp2020.com/scientific-program/emerging-psychologists-programme/).
We are looking forward to seeing you in Chicago August 8-11. Here are a few events as a sneak peek of the wonderful programming we have in store at Convention. Also, please visit us in the Suite at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. We have a full line-up of great programming in the Suite featuring members and affiliates from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America. This year’s theme of Human Rights yielded important research presentations, conversation hours, and discussion groups. Please visit our website for specific program schedule.

We want to highlight some of our conferences presentations, including;

Doing No Harm—Psychologists Promoting Human Rights and Human Dignity in the 21st Century;

Untold Complexities of Human Trafficking: Climate Change, Asylum Seekers, and Intercountry Adoption, chaired by our president Dr. Nancy Sidun;

Promoting the Well-Being of the LGBT Community in Different Countries—Think Globally and Act Locally;

Migration, Xenophobia, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Human Rights Among Mexicans, featuring our international affiliates from Mexico who are conducting exciting mental health research with emerging adults and men deported back to Michoacan;

The Global Impact of War, Politics, and Migration and Refugee Policies—The Role of Psychology; Developing Intercultural Competence in Higher Education and Clinical Practice;

Research with Refugee Communities---Empirical Considerations and Findings.

We are certain you will find these presentations to be informative and useful. We look forward to seeing you at the suite and at Division 52 conference. We remind you of our social hours and hope to see you there as well. Join also for our Business and Awards Meeting, Saturday, 8/10/19, 3-5 pm. Come and celebrate our new fellows and awardees. Location: McCormick Place Room S101a.

Johanna D. Nilsson & Yvette G. Flores
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Date: August 26, 2019, 10:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time/
August 27, 2019 10:30 AM Indian Standard Time (note time!!)

R.C. Tripathi
Editor Psychology and Developing Societies: University of Allahabad (ret);
National Fellow Indian Council of Social Science Research (ret)

From othering towards un-othering: Identity contestations in multicultural societies

Date: October 23, 2019, 12:00 PM EST

Janel Gauthier
University of Laval, Canada; Past President, International Association of
Applied Psychology

Psychological ethics in a globalizing world:
Overview and meaning of recent national and international developments

Continuing Education Credit will be available – see web

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