

Special points of interest:

- IAIR is an interdisciplinary organization.
- There are currently 235 members.
- The next IAIR conference will be in Shanghai China, June, 2019.

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From the President's Desk

A very belated Happy New year to you all!!! 2018 is already more than 2 months old, and I trust you all have good reasons to be optimistic of a peaceful 2018 and harmonious intercultural relations among all mankind. My one wish for the year is that our work and research will be ever more relevant in achieving the goals of the Academy.

Looking at the global challenges of our time, I am ever more convinced that the work of this Academy has never been more relevant. We should not rest on our oars but strive even more to make our impact felt in the highest levels of governments. The column by our Secretary (in this issue) should give us a reason to be engaged in creating a more civic society!!!

It has been more than half a year since taking office, and I am still reeling in the sweet memories of the Academy's Staten Island conference. The last conference, and indeed the previous congresses have greatly inspired me. The next conference is less than a year and a half away, and will be held in Shanghai, China. I hope as many of you as possible will make it a priority to attend. Our conferences have shaped my orientation towards a peaceful world, harmonious intercultural relationships and multicultural societies as a whole. The more I review



David Sam
IAIR President

research on these topics, the more evidence I see suggesting that societies can truly be multicultural when they systematically work towards making people of different cultural backgrounds feel accepted and welcome, without the fear of losing their own societal and cultural identities. By true multicultural society, I mean a society that implements policies, programs and practices that accommodate and support diversity in ways that ensure members of diverse ethnocultural groups are able to maintain their heritage cultures and participate equitably in the wider society.

Early in September 2017, I sent out an email to Academy fellows inviting them to sign up for an IAIR-IJIR mentorship program, where the goal was to help young scholars with their publica-

tion. I have temporarily suspended the program because very few Fellows signed up. I am very grateful to the Fellows who signed up to serve. The reason for the suspension is not to overburden the few who have signed up. In the coming month, I will be contacting some Fellows to solicit their involvement in the program.

A short while ago, the Academy was faced with a challenge recruiting top-notch scholars, who have the time to serve as Associate editors (AE) for our Flagship journal -- the International Journal for Intercultural Relations. The Editor-in-chief (EiC) together with a handful of Fellows formed a Publications sub-committee working tirelessly to fill-up the vacant AE positions. The sub-committee will also work towards finding a replacement for our current EiC, when her tenure comes to an end in 2019. Meanwhile, I am happy to inform the Academy that Dr Jim Neuliep, Professor of Communication and Media Studies, St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin, USA and Dr. Jaimee Stuart, Griffith University, Mt Gravatt, Queensland, Australia have become Associate editors of the Journal. I cannot adequately express how grateful the Academy is for the great and dedicated work the editors are doing.

Best regards, David.

Joana Almeida - Member

I am Research Associate at Newcastle University (UK) where I develop research on the internationalization of higher education and cross-cultural communication. Here, my main responsibilities involve developing applied research on an Erasmus+ project on [Internationalization at Home](#) and on a British Council capacity-building programme focused on internationalizing curricula in Brazilian Higher Education. My Undergraduate degree (Portuguese and English for teaching purposes) and my PhD (in Education) are both from the University of Aveiro, Portugal.

During both my undergraduate degree and doctoral studies, I had the opportunity to study abroad. I was an Erasmus student at the University of Southampton (UK) and a visiting scholar at SIT Graduate Institute (USA), where I did two research stays in International Education under the supervision of Prof Emer. Alvin E. Fantini. My personal experience as an exchange student in the UK was



Joana Almeida
IAIR Member

the main motivation to carry out a doctoral research, which aimed to enhance the intercultural learning and development of European credit-seeking exchange students during their stay abroad, in Portugal. I completed my PhD in November 2015.

My main research interests are centred on: internationalization of higher (abroad and at home), internationalization of the curriculum, student mobility/study abroad, intercultural competence facilitation and assessment, and mixed methods research (applied to International and Intercultural Education).

I have been a member of IAIR since September 2017, and I very much appreciated attending the 2017 biennial conference in State Island, NY, USA. I absolutely loved the interdisciplinary scope and friendly environment of the Academy.

My other interests are: travelling, meeting people from other cultures, language learning, cinema and dancing.

E-mail: Joana.Almeida@newcastle.ac.uk
Website: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ecls/staff/profile/joanaalmeida.html#background>

Caroline Ng Tseung-Wong - Member

Born and raised in multicultural Mauritius, my mother tongue is Kreol and I am fluent in English and French. Coming from a very small but visible ethnic group (Chinese-Mauritian) the question 'who am I and where do I belong' resonates with me.

As an international student in the UK for my undergraduate degree in Psychology at the University of Surrey and then Masters in Psychology of Education at the Institute of Education-London, I have lived intercultural dialogue, navigated difference and ponder over the many social categories to which I belong.

For all of the above, I am a social psychologist interested primarily in diversity and intergroup relations from a social identity approach. For my PhD supervised by Maykel



Caroline Ng Tseung
IAIR Member

Verkuyten at Utrecht University, I conducted a large-scale survey investigating Mauritian adolescents' identification to their national, ethnic and religious groups; the (in)

compatible associations amongst the social identities, and the correlates of intergroup evaluations.

I am interested in understanding how best to manage diverse societies especially the importance of diversity ideologies in intergroup relations and individuals' construction of their social identities in multicultural contexts.

I am currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Mauritius.

Email: cngtseung@hotmail.com;
c.ngtseung@uom.ac.mu



Ripley Smith
Fellow
IAIR Secretary

IAIR's Role in Promoting Civil Society

The mission of IAIR could not be more relevant, and the necessity of the Academy's voice in global conversations more critical, than right now amidst the torrent of vitriolic rhetoric, walls, and division in public spheres around the world (e.g., refugee crises, immigration debates, etc.). Fulfilling our goal of disseminating "to the public information regarding intercultural relations" and encouraging "interchanges between people with an interest in intercultural relations" in pursuit of peace and mutual prosperity has never been more important.

One of the most debilitating obstacles people often face in choosing to get involved in compassionate caring and discourse within our communities with those that differ in race, ethnicity, background, faith, ideology, etc., is confronting the question, "but what can I do?" The obstacles seem overwhelming.

Part of this dilemma is no doubt due to the unique quality of our digital, Facebook generation. We are exposed to such an overwhelming global range of concerns and injustices for which we might engage that the effect can be to shut us down to them all. The implications are that, left alone as individuals, we are relatively powerless and ineffectual against the mythical size and complexity of the "problems" we face. The situation is compounded by the fact that we cannot simply privatize our involvement in complex issues either. Intercultural interaction often exposes our naïve participation in societal structures that contribute to the causes of inequity. The uncomfortable proposition that our engagement often means confronting the structures of injustice - the same structures that might offer us comfort and security, unaffected by the injustice, takes a special kind of courage. To ask oneself, "how am I responsible for the Syrian refugee crisis or unauthorized immigrants?" requires the humility to recognize that the "problem" is often a policy at its root. And policies are initiated and shaped by the polity of which we are members. Such an introspective turn results in expanding the limits of our responsibility and a shared identification that can be the genesis of inter-group dialogue.

One example of policy creating an immigration problem in the U.S. has to do with the restricted paths to legal immigration. There simply are too few options, and recently even those pathways are coming under fire. Some of my friends who have recently emigrated have humorously noted that it is easier to get into the kingdom of heaven than it is to enter the United States. The undeniable policy fallout is thousands of people entering the country without proper documentation.

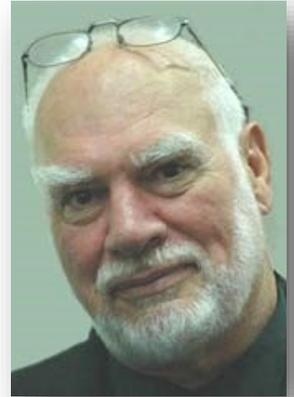
It is into these policy discussions, from local to international, that the Academy can speak with substantive insights that include under-represented, underserved voices. There are very real and tangible ways in which we can involve ourselves in critical conversations, while modeling civil intergroup dialogue for those with which we engage. Our local participation may in fact influence global crises that call for our involvement. My hope is that we will have the opportunity to report back to the Academy stories about the impact our members are having on local, national, and international discussions in the coming months.

Fellow Guest Column

Dr. George F Simons at diversophy.com

Stop Flogging a Dead Horse: the danger of a single paradigm

At the SIETAR Congress in Tallinn, Estonia, Milton Bennett made a short presentation calling into question metaphors being used to explore culture, the iceberg being the most popular of these. Given the reaction of several people in the audience about his attempt to critique the limitations of metaphorical approaches dear to many, I might have even titled this thought piece, "Whose Ox is Being Gored?", as various people objected to his critique, feeling their work or business was threatened.



In fact, studies of culture are always in flux, as is culture itself. This means that metaphors and models are not the be-all and end-all, but may offer a temptation to, perhaps unconsciously, become a "one size fits all" illusion. To cite [Doris Bachmann-Medick](#), "Rather than claiming culture to be an 'original' and particular context of traditions, it should be considered as an 'impure' mix of differing or contradictory experiences, meanings, multiple affiliations and respective power struggles." Thus, limiting oneself to a single paradigm, metaphor, or model of culture can turn out to be "flogging a dead horse", not only a waste of time, but a potentially dangerous form of blindness – in the oft cited words of Nobel Laureate physicist Max Born, himself a victim of Nazi persecution, "The belief that there is only one truth, and that one's self is in possession of it, is the root of all evil in the world."

While we are likely aware of the "great names" and current thought leaders in the intercultural field, we often lack a bigger picture of how their approaches are related to each other and how they have both developed and deviated from each other in attempting to identify and work with the dynamics of culture and the methodological turns that study and research have taken. Intercultural studies courses rarely if ever teach about these broader dimensions of our work. We lack a good history, a philosophy and epistemology of intercultural studies, as well as thorough explorations of the culture of interculturalists. (Hint to those seeking areas for research or dissertation topics – these would be two very worthwhile projects.)

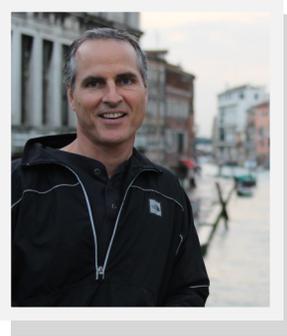
The availability of multiple paradigms also challenges the positivistic constraints on humanistic disciplines as well as calls into question the tendency to abstraction found in a number of approaches to culture. We are, reluctantly perhaps, beginning to accept the fact that scientific or statistical proof is not the only form of knowledge. Likewise, dimensional labels are deceptive, not just because they are easily transformed into stereotypes, but because the stories behind them and the behaviors they generate can be quite different, even contradictory.

Certainly, the currently increasing polarization around identities in many parts of the world and the othering of those not like us serve as wake-up calls for us to both listen and enter discussion from multiple perspectives chosen and adapted to the best of our ability to the values and context of our interlocutors.

Newsletter Editor's Note

We are always on the lookout for newsletter content. If you would like to contribute a brief story (350-500 words), research insight from the field, or members in the news highlight that is relevant to our scholarly community, we will gladly receive them

New Members and Fellows: If you are new to the academy we would like to feature your profile in a future edition of the newsletter. If you will provide us with a 250 word biography/profile statement that describes your research



***Ripley Smith,
IAIR Secretary and
Newsletter Editor***

interests, personal hobbies or non-academic interests, and introduction/connection to IAIR along with a high resolution photograph of yourself we will introduce you to the membership in an upcoming newsletter. Please also provide us with a preferred email address and the URL of your institutional-affiliated personal website.

Submissions may be sent to:

r-smith@bethel.edu

Visit the IAIR Website for More Information

Thanks to our webmaster, Anand Chandrasekar, the Academy website has a page dedicated to archiving Newsletters as well as the Who We Are series issues (available at: <http://www.intercultural-academy.net/about-iair/who-we-are.html#download-pdf>).

In addition, as members' profiles are featured, they are added to a growing collection of individually clickable profiles listed by member name. Individuals looking for information about specific IAIR members can now easily browse and click on member profiles, while the Who We Are issues are archived for those

interested in viewing the profiles as a periodic compilation. The clickable list of member profiles is available at:

<http://www.intercultural-academy.net/about-iair/who-we-are.html>.

IAIR Shanghai Conference

IAIR will be meeting at the Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) in the summer of 2019. Stay tuned for specific dates, conference information and a call for symposia, panels, and papers soon!



International Academy for Intercultural Research



The primary purpose of the Academy is to promote intercultural understanding. Accordingly, it promotes and encourages research, theory, and practice in the field of intercultural relations. The Academy also strives to disseminate to the public information regarding intercultural relations and it encourages interchanges between people with an interest in intercultural relations. The ultimate goal of the Academy is to promote world peace and prosperity through applications of academic principles and research findings to the betterment of human realities.

In furtherance of the goals, the Academy is an explicitly interdisciplinary forum which promotes and facilitates intercultural research in the areas of Psychology, Sociology, Communication, Education, Anthropology, Management, Political Science, and other areas of specialization in the social sciences and practice.

Visit us on the World-Wide Web at:
<http://www.intercultural-academy.net/>

Encourage Your Colleagues to Join

It is our mission to encourage the highest quality empirical research and practice aimed at understanding the ways in which cultures interact and the results, for good or ill, of those interactions.

We invite all serious scholars of intercultural relations to join with us in this important enterprise—for we can have no greater purpose as scientists than reducing and, hopefully, eliminating intercultural conflict at all levels from individuals and groups to whole societies and nations. Please encourage your colleagues who are doing work in these areas to consider joining IAIR.



Information about membership in IAIR is available on our website at www.intercultural-academy.net/

Levels of Membership

Three levels of membership are available: fellow, full member, and student member.

Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to the *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, the official journal of the Academy either on-line or hard copy.
- Access to past issues of the Journal through Science Direct, a service of Elsevier, Ltd.
- Significantly reduced fees for the biennial conferences
- Access to the member directory.
- Reduced subscription fees to many relevant Elsevier journals

Criteria and application procedures are available on the website at <http://www.intercultural-academy.net/membership/levels-of-membership.html>