



International Academy for  
Intercultural Research

# IAIR Newsletter

March / April 2020

## Highlights:

- IAIR is a professional interdisciplinary organization dedicated to the understanding and improvement of intercultural relations through world-class social science research
- We are committed to engage together in scholarship and informed praxis to help us all face intercultural challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis

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## President's Perspectives

Dear Colleagues,



*Steve Kulich*  
*IAIR President*

**As we started 2020, I harbored much hope (expressed in my Dec 23 list-serve post). That was before we learned of the term or spread of "novel coronavirus!"**

How much more our global community needs HOPE facing this threat as daily statistics, news reports, social media reactions, and government policies infringe or impinge on personal rights or provoke sentiments counter to the human decency and mutual respect we espouse. We're inundated by both incidents and reports of increased hate speech, Other-blame, and cross-border barriers (though also thankfully heartened by some wonderful examples

of human outreach and sacrifice).

Thanks to Nan Sussman's prompting and APA Division 52's example, the IAIR Executive Committee felt compelled to post a "Statement of Solidarity" on our website (March 12 - reprinted here as a reminder). We've also been grappling with how our research might address the challenges posed by the global spread of COVID-19 (page 12 and 13).

I'm grateful to be surrounded by colleagues who are seeking to address global, academic, and interpersonal concerns. Executive Director Ken Cushner, President-Elect Adam Komisarof, *IJIR* Editor Seth Schwartz, 2021 conference organizer Stefan Kammhuber, and our Social Media team provide illustrations of our Academy's engagement – **we ARE in this together!**

With the passing of another influential scholar, Geert Hofstede, and scholarly and applied examples like Bob Weigl, Greg Trifonovitch (East-West Center), and Bill Divale (twice SSCR Past President), we continue to forge new directions in

cross- and intercultural research.

These are turbulent times, not only for government programs, health systems, stock markets, but real people with real challenges: business owners, workers, and staff, online instructors, caregivers, work-at-home parents, but also for the whole gamut of interactions BETWEEN us as human beings.

Thus, I still hold on to HOPE that 2020 can be a year in which we each reassess what is important to us and how we can better act and react as individuals, inter-connected groups, and interculturalists. This is an important time for us to consider how to make a difference in intercultural relations!

Warmly,

*Steve J. Kulich*

**Shanghai International Studies University (SISU)**

If you have suggestions for what we can be doing better, please contact me [steve.kulich@gmail.com](mailto:steve.kulich@gmail.com) or others on our Exec. Committee. We are committed to work together with you to build the Academy!

## A Call for Solidarity and Intercultural Understanding during COVID-19

Dear Colleagues!

Reprint of [original posted](#) 12 March 2020

Paying attention to increasing news, personal reports, and professional opinions on the daily spread of the Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), we also share a concern about its impact on global health, economics, and perceptions of peoples and place. As the IAIR Executive Committee, we express our solidarity with all who are affected! We particularly hope for an early recovery for those who have contracted the virus, and peace of mind and wellbeing for those curtailed by national or regional measures to control its spread worldwide.

Alongside a growing number of news and professional publications, we too express our concern about expressions of macro or micro-aggressions, ethnic-targeting, and xenophobic responses toward Chinese/Asians, Iranians/Middle Easterners, Italians/Europeans or others assumed to be from affected regions. Though we humanly empathize with feelings of vulnerability, fears of the unknown, and survival and safety instincts facing many, we are both saddened and alarmed by campaigns of misinformation, unfair references to certain ethnicities or countries, and discriminatory attitudes and acts (e.g. a Lancet letter on 2019-nCoV, fake news, and racism).

Because we are an academy dedicated to improving intercultural relations, we seek to serve the challenges facing **EACH cultural group** with our scholarship, engagement, and efforts to promote cross-cultural respect and good will. We acknowledge that available options and cultural practices in each affected nation or region might vary in how to respond to the virus. We therefore urge the withholding of judgement and decry expressions of bias or blame.

We call for shared responsibility to both prevent and call out attitudes or acts of injustice, discrimination, hate, and violence. Let us be reflective and monitor our own, or group member's, responses and encourage mindfulness of others, tolerance of differences, and ways of reaching out to offer help beyond our own safety in these trying times.

Facts about the virus and its threat must be realistically faced, but no individuals or groups deserve to be further threatened or harmed by negative acts. We concur with the sentiments of our American Psychological Association colleagues, that "we must remind ourselves and others that the real challenge is the virus, not the people. The Coronavirus epi(pan)demic outbreak will eventually be over. Racial discrimination, hate, and xenophobia, however, are diseases that can outlive the virus, and if this occurs, they will be more difficult to address."

In this time of global challenge, may we each embody the values and practices that we embrace as interculturalists – to affirm human and cultural dignity, exhibit empathy and respect, and engage across barriers and boundaries to help those in time of need!

In sincere solidarity,

the IAIR Executive Committee

Steve Kulich, Ph.D. IAIR President,

Adam Komisarof, Ph.D. IAIR President-Elect

Ken Cushner, Ph.D. IAIR Executive Director

Ripley Smith, Ph.D. IAIR Executive Secretary

David Sam, Ph.D. IAIR Past-President

Nan Sussman, Ph.D. Past-Past-President (Advisor to the EC)



International Academy for  
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<https://www.intercultural-academy.net>

## Executive Director

### Cushner's Comments

As I write these words, I am reflecting on how stressful these past few weeks have been – and it is only the end of March. There's not much that I can add to the many statements of support and hope so many have expressed. But I do recognize how demanding the coming months will continue to be for so many of us now and on so many levels – whether you are academics struggling to maintain your teaching and research agendas from a distance; parents with young children who are now at home with you who need to maintain their own schooling and social networks; for those, like myself, who have aging parents in nursing homes that have been cut off from loved ones; citizens in any society that will have to 'pick up the pieces' and get our businesses and industries back on their feet while assisting so many who will be in greater need; to the professional organizations and societies, like our own, who question the feasibility of moving forward with planned conferences and other events.



*Dr. Ken Cushner*  
*IAIR Executive Director*

There is certainly no shortage of opportunity, though, for us as interculturalists to bring our perspectives, insights and expertise to bear on much of what lies ahead and to look for ways to turn the pending challenges into opportunities. From offering insights about the transitions individuals and organizations will confront to challenging and redirecting peoples' misperceptions and potential for increased hate-speech, prejudice and racism, we are especially skilled and can contribute in meaningful ways to guide and assist others – and I urge you to do so.

We are also fortunate that our next conference is not scheduled to take place until July of 2021, meaning that it will likely take place and we will be able to gather face-to-face to continue to support and learn from one another. We are eager to continue to support your professional needs as we can.

*Ken Cushner*

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Kent State University

These are indeed challenging times. With fears about the coronavirus (Covid-19), ongoing news about environmental disasters, and a global proliferation of me-first nativism and populism, we are facing multiple destabilizing crises.

Sometimes it feels like being in a pressure cooker, and as the temperature rises, I have been struck by the wide range of responses of people and governments in response to such adversity. Crises can bring out both the best and worst in humanity.

In Japan, where I have lived for 24 years, the word for crisis, 危機, is composed of characters symbolizing danger and opportunity. Similarly, my hope is that IAIR can rise from this adversity and serve a proactive role in bringing out the best in people. As experts in facilitating positive outcomes in interpersonal and intergroup communication, we can affect such change through our research, teaching, administrative duties, and community outreach.

Furthermore, the Executive Committee is exploring how IAIR can influence public policy and exert a larger presence in the mass media. Your ideas about how to do so are very welcome. Please feel free to contact me any time (at the email below) if you would like to contribute to this dialogue.

There are 3 other important projects in IAIR which I would like to share with you.

- I have been leading an ad-hoc committee to review IAIR's by-laws. We have finished the first stage of the process and are prepared to recommend a broad range of revisions and additions that will smooth the administration of our organization and add new functions. Our plan is to share these proposed changes with all members and ask you to vote on them as part of our general election this autumn.
- Preparation is ramping up for our next biennial conference, scheduled for July 10-14, 2021, in Rapperswil, Switzerland (near Zurich). Please encourage your colleagues to attend this conference who are doing intercultural communication research but not currently involved in IAIR—for instance, scholars in your home institutions.
- IAIR is looking to hone and expand our membership. If you have any colleagues whom you think would be interested, please encourage them to join by completing an application on our website. We also have many esteemed members who are qualified to become fellows. The process starts with a nomination from another fellow, and this form can also be found on our website.

Finally, if any of our members with student status are no longer students, it is time to reapply to IAIR as a regular member. It is part of our mission to maintain a dues structure that allows people with lower incomes (for example, students, retirees, or academics working in developing economies) to enjoy the benefits of membership, but this is only possible when our other members contribute the full yearly fee. If you currently have student status in IAIR but have finished or withdrawn from your doctoral program, then kindly complete a membership form through the website while noting that you were previously a student member of IAIR.

These are challenging times, but as interculturalists, our potential for positive, constructive contributions to the shape of human communication has never been greater. I wish you all a safe, healthy, and fruitful spring in 2020.

*Adam Komisarof*

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Keio University



***Dr. Adam Komisarof***  
***IAIR President-Elect***



**Seth Schwartz**  
New *IJIR* Editor-in-Chief

It is an honor to begin my term as editor of *IJIR*. As I stated in my incoming editorial, I never thought I would be a journal editor. In fact, editing a journal was one of three positions I insisted I would never take on (department chair and dean are the others). But the opportunity to edit a journal whose scope is squarely within my fields of interest was simply too good to pass up.

I have never really thought of myself as a cross-cultural or intercultural researcher. I am, first and foremost, an identity researcher. My “first love” in academia was identity formation – how people develop their sense of who they are and what they are doing with their lives – and many people still know me as a neo-

## Introducing Seth-Schwartz

Eriksonian identity scholar. Moving from Tallahassee, Florida – a small, isolated college town in the US Deep South – to Miami, one of the most diverse and intercultural cities in the world, forced me to expand my scholarly interests to include cultural, as well as personal, dimensions of identity. I have always been fascinated by how people can pick up their whole lives, move to a new country, and restart everything.

Despite the challenges they face, immigrants often *do better* than most native-born people. Reading student essays brings this point home – immigrant students almost always write better, and more interesting, papers than native-born students do. They are more careful with language, they are more expressive, and they are more grateful for the opportunities that they have. Many of us who are not immigrants (and live in the countries where we were born) take many of our blessings for granted. Immigrants generally do not take very much for granted. I am very interested in learning more about how and why immigrants seem to fare better than non-immigrants in terms of mental and physical health.

My vision for *IJIR* is very much in line with *IAIR* and builds on the work of the prior editors, Dan Landis, Colleen Ward, and Dina Birman. We focus on intercultural adaptation, communication, and learning. We are publishing work centered on migrants, sojourners, social media, teaching and learning styles, and other aspects of intercultural relations.

In the coming months, we will likely [create a special issue](#) on the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on intercultural relations. I myself am starting up 2 longitudinal studies with migrant populations, and we are including measures related to the pandemic and the stress it has caused. Additionally, given the association of the pandemic with China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, and other countries, it will be essential to conduct work on perceptions and stereotypes toward people from these countries. Look for a call for papers later this year.

**The International Journal of Intercultural Relations (IJIR)** is the flagship journal of the Academy published by Elsevier (ISSN: 0147-1767). Established in 1977 by Dr. Dan Landis (who served as Editor-in-Chief for 35 years from 1977-2011, followed by Dr. Colleen Ward 2011-2014, Dina Birman, 2015-2019, and now Seth Schwartz, 2020-). Our bi-monthly, peer-reviewed, highly-rated journal has established itself as the leading outlet for research addressing the wide range of areas related to intercultural relations (current CiteScore 2.22, Impact Factor 1.713)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-journal-of-intercultural-relations/>

### Aims and Scope:



- ◆ *IJIR* is dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of theory, research and practice in the field of intercultural relations, including, but not limited to, topics such as immigrant acculturation and integration; intergroup relations, and intercultural communication that have implications for social impact.
- ◆ The journal publishes quantitative and qualitative empirical research and reviews of research literature. Both full length papers and brief reports are published with high priority given to manuscripts that join theory and research with applications in the areas of education, health, social welfare and organizational and community development.
- ◆ *IJIR* provides an interdisciplinary forum for scholars in fields of psychology, communication, education, management, sociology and related disciplines.

### Current Editorial Board:

Editor-in-Chief: **Seth Schwartz**, University of Miami, Florida, USA  
 Editor Emeritus: **Dina Birman**, University of Miami, Florida, USA  
 Managing Editor: **Miryam Haarlammert**, University of Miami, Florida, USA  
 Associate Editors:

**James Neulip**, St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin, USA

**Saba Safdar**, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

**Jaimee Stuart**, Griffith University, Mount Gravatt, Queensland, Australia

**Peter F. Titzman**, Leibnitz Universität, Hannover, Germany

Assistant Editors:

**Alex S. English**, Shanghai International Studies University, China

**Christopher Salas-Wright**, Boston University, Massachusetts, USA

**Agnes Szabo**, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand

**Keeping up with our Journal: *International Journal of Intercultural Research***

As noted in this issue, we have witnessed the passing of an important torch. Our kudos and deep appreciation are expressed to Dina Birman for her unwavering commitment to publish cutting edge articles and keep increasing the impact factor of IJIR. For the next issue we've asked Dina to provide a retrospective overview of how the journal has developed under her tenure. In this issue, we've asked incoming Editor-in-Chief, Seth Schwartz to introduce himself. And if you haven't read it yet, we recommend that you download and digest his vision and direction for the journal through his first *Incoming editorial: Advancing intercultural research and standing on the shoulders of giants* (in Volume 54, Pages A1-A6): <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2019.11.008>

Though always accessible online through Elsevier's sciencedirect.com, sometimes in our busy schedules, we might overlook what is being published in our flagship journal. On these pages we'll seek to reprint the table of contents for each current or recent issue so that you as members have a quick check of contents at your fingertips. Those with paid up memberships receive online access to the journal with their membership, so we recommend that you keep your membership active.

We also recommend you visit the "Article collections" tab to see the list previous Special Issues.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-journal-of-intercultural-relations/special-issues>

And we hope YOU will be considering studies and developing research articles on areas and topics of importance that can be submitted and contribute to the journal and our field of intercultural relations. Working together, we hope to work with Seth and his team to keep IJIR developing as top journal for cross- and intercultural relations research.

**Upcoming Issue: IJIR Volume 76 (May 2020) in progress**

We plan to print this list of articles in our next newsletter, once the issue is finalized. But you can access ready-to-download pre-prints of those articles already accepted from the IJIR website:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-journal-of-intercultural-relations/vol/76/suppl/C>

**Current Issue: IJIR Volume 75 (March 2020) (click on page numbers to link to each)****Research Articles:**

Does religion matter? Italians' responses towards Muslim and Christian Arab immigrants as a function of their acculturation preferences ([Pages 1-9](#))

Camilla Matera, Anna Picchiarini, Maria Olsson, Rupert Brown

Identity and linguistic acculturation expectations. The attitudes of Western Catalan high-school students towards Moroccans and Romanians ([Pages 10-22](#))

Isabel Sáenz- Hernández, Cecilio Lapresta-Rey, Maria Adelina Ianos, Cristina Petreñas

Games from around the world: Promoting intercultural competence through sport education in secondary school students ([Pages 23-33](#))

Federico Puente-Maxera, Antonio Méndez-Giménez, Diego Martínez de Ojeda

Does fear of terrorism influence psychological adjustment of academic sojourners in Pakistan? Role of state negative affect and emotional support ([Pages 34-47](#))

Farhan Sarwar, Siti Aisyah Panatik, Hafiz Tahir Jameel

Intercultural contacts and acculturation resources among International students in Australia: A mixed-methods study ([Pages 56-81](#)) Andre A. Pekerti, Fons J.R. van de Vijver, Miriam Moeller, Tyler G. Okimoto

Does normative multiculturalism foster or threaten social cohesion? ([Pages 82-94](#))

Sara Morgan Watters, Colleen Ward, Jaimee Stuart

Muslim women wearing the niqab in Spain: Dialogues around discrimination, identity and freedom ([Pages 95-105](#))

Carme Garcia Yeste, Ouarda El Miri Zeguari, Pilar Álvarez, Teresa Morlà Folch

Intergroup contact and prejudice toward immigrants: A multinational, multilevel test of the moderating role of individual conservative values and cultural embeddedness ([Pages 106-117](#))

Daniela Barni, Nicoletta Cavazza, Silvia Russo, Alessio Vieno, Michele Roccato

More facebook, less homesick? Investigating the short-term and long-term reciprocal relations of interactions, homesickness, and adjustment among international students ([Pages 118-131](#))

Cherrie Joy Billedo, Peter Kerkhof, Catrin Finkenauer

Positive and negative intergroup contact and willingness to engage in intergroup interactions among majority (Han) and minority (Uyghur) group members in China: The moderating role of social dominance orientation ([Pages 132-140](#))

Changcheng Wang, Fei Huang, Sofia Stathi, Loris Vezzali

**Brief Report: Modern health worries in Pakistani immigrant women in Oslo, Norway (Open access: [Pages 48-55](#))**

Victoria T. Hjellset, Camilla Ihlebæk

In the last newsletter we announced that the Academy now has accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter and Wechat. We're grateful for the new and engaged Social Media team managing these! This time we are thrilled to introduce them! Contact any on the committee if you have informative posts on job openings, conferences, relevant cross- or intercultural communication issues or research articles from IJIR and related journals, useful tips regarding publishing, and any IAIR members' or fellows' major achievements.

You can find us doing a search for each of the "titles" or clicking on the links



IAIR - International Academy for Intercultural Research" on Facebook.  
<https://www.facebook.com/IAIROFFICIAL/?ref=bookmarks>



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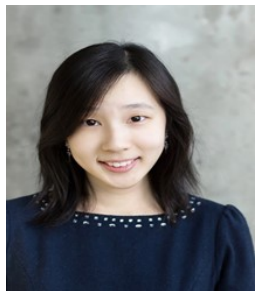
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We believe that a strong online presence will allow us to bring attention to global issues, help support our members, and become a truly global academic community. So please recommend other useful social media sites, volunteer to work with us, and help IAIR be more visible, current, and engaged. We value your active contributions and interaction with our Social Media Team:



Jonas is a professor in Cultural- and Community Psychology at the University of Oslo where he leads the Culture, Society & Behavior Lab ([www.csblab.com](http://www.csblab.com)). He is also a founding member of the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX) at his university. Jonas holds a PhD in Social Psychology. In his research, he focuses on topics related to migration (e.g., acculturation, discrimination, threat perceptions), political issues (e.g., inequality, extremism, radicalization), gender issues (e.g., stigma and discrimination), and the environment (e.g., meat consumption). He is enthusiastic about comparative, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary work.

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Ying Shan (Doris) Zhang is a Ph.D. student in Social and Cultural Psychology at the University of Alberta. She received her Master of Arts degree in Counselling Psychology from the University of Denver. Doris enjoys researching about acculturation and multiculturalism. Specifically, she is interested to examine the impacts of various personal and sociocultural factors on the intercultural functioning of transnational migrants in contemporary society (e.g., international students and immigrants).

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Joep Hofhuis is an assistant professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam, where he specializes in intercultural and organizational communication. He was awarded a PhD in social and organizational psychology (University of Groningen, 2012), based on his research on cultural diversity in the workplace. His current research interests include the role of media and communication in acculturation of international sojourners, and the interplay between organizational communication and diversity management.

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Soyhan Egitim is an assistant professor at Toyo University, Tokyo, Japan and a doctoral candidate in organizational leadership and management at Northeastern University, Boston, MA. He is mainly in charge of teaching intercultural communication and content-based English classes at his university. His current research interests include inclusion in diversity management, inclusive leadership and promoting a collaborative leadership attitude in EFL class management and teaching approaches.

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Saranya is a PhD candidate in Management-Organizational Behaviour at University of Lausanne, Switzerland, where she studies strategies that job applicants can take to reduce discrimination against them during the hiring process. She recently completed an Erasmus Mundus joint-master's degree in the psychology of global mobility, inclusion and diversity in society (Global-MINDS). She is interested in the social psychological mechanisms underlying prejudice and discrimination, with a view to improving intergroup relations.

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Aurora is from Costa Rica. She previously worked as a lecturer at National University (UNA) in the Language Department in Costa Rica and also as an assistant professor in University of Costa Rica (UCR) for the Business school. She worked as a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Economics at L'Institut de Hautes études Internationales et du Développement (IHEID) in Geneva, Switzerland. Currently, Aurora is part of the Integrated Phd program in Intercultural Communication at Birkbeck, University of London and her focus of study is team building in Business and negotiation strategies within Intercultural Management. She has participated in several academic projects about Collaborative Virtual Learning.

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Alexandria West is a PhD candidate in Social Psychology at York University, Toronto, working with Joni Sasaki and Amy Muise. Alexandria is a cultural psychologist and multiculturalism researcher. Her current research focuses on biculturalism, studying how bi-culturalists negotiate their multiple cultures and what unique psychological and social outcomes result from the specific ways they do so. Alexandria also leads projects on self-expansion and cultural negotiation in intercultural romantic relationships as well as on the barriers to intercultural understanding in North America.

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### Remembering other IAIR Interculturalists

In our last issue (5-1) we reminisced on the origins of intercultural and cross-cultural research being formalized as a field in the 1970s through many pioneering influences. It is always sad to have to say goodbye to another one of those greats who have influenced the field and our scholarship or our persons. Some suggest that Geert Hofstede's 1980 extensive multi-nation study was a gauntlet for both quantitative studies and dimensioning in the field. Many of us likely recall Geert's astute keynote at the 2007 Groningen IAIR conference and the lively discussion following. Whether adopted, expanded, critiqued, or contested, Hofstede's dimensions continue to have an incredible influence on how culture is researched, compared, taught or applied to training. We respectfully tip our hats as we say goodbye to Geert and the living legacy that his son Gert Jan Hofstede, Michael Minkov, and others continue.

#### Gerard Hendrick (Geert) Hofstede (2 October 1928-12 February 2020)



Professor Emeritus of Organizational Anthropology and International Management at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, he is remembered as the pioneer who developed cultural dimensions theory. His signature works, *Culture's Consequences: International Differences in Work-Related Values*, 1980 (and the expanded 2001 edition) and *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind*, 1995 (and later updated 2010 edition with co-authors) being among some of the highest cited works in cross-cultural research. Trained as an industrial psychologist, his work as human resource director for IBM led to his extensive data collection for the 1980 volume, and his work comparing and measuring dimensions and indicators of national cultures, organizational management, values and leadership studies led to honorary memberships in many international societies/associations/academies and prominent awards, such as the 1998 Eminent Scholar of the Academy of International Business, 2006 Honorary Fellow of IACCP.

On February 16, just several days after Geert passed away, Iekje Smit and Marcel Siegmund of SAP (Siegmund audiovisuele produkties, [siegmundaudiovisueel.nl](http://siegmundaudiovisueel.nl)) wrote:

“Last Friday we honoured Geert Hofstede's life and legacy by opening his archives to the public. In accordance with his wishes, we can now also share with you the documentary we made together with him to celebrate his 85th birthday. “

[Geert Hofstede AN ENGINEER'S ODYSSEY 2014](#) (Premiered Feb 16, 2020)

Many organizations were a part of the making of this wonderfully personal, intimate, and explanatory film (including donations from affiliated universities, consultancies, IACCP, SIETAR Nederland, SIETAR Europe, SIETAR Austria, and even from our Shanghai Intercultural Institute) – we all owe a lot to each of our pioneers! His ongoing website is always worth a visit: <https://geerthofstede.com> as is this dedication: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/non-weird-science/202002/in-memory-geert-hofstede-cross-cultural-icon>

**Another recently departed Interculturalist**

Others at that IAIR 2007 Groningen conference will remember the engaging Fellows Day presentations, especially one by Bob Weigl on culture-story writing exploration assignments he used while serving Semester at Sea (which resonated with my own work on developing own-culture awareness exercises via values and identity descriptions). Bob's session was later published in IJIR as "Intercultural competence through cultural self-study," [doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2009.04.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2009.04.004). Among his many engagements, he was recently active as a paper and symposium reviewer for our 2019 IAIR conference in Shanghai. Hearing of his passing was another shock and great loss.

**Robert C. Weigl** (September 10, 1944 - February 1, 2020)

After receiving an honors BA (Religion, Princeton) and completing MA and PhD degrees (Clinical Psychology, University of Michigan), Bob worked as a therapist and mental health administrator for 40 years and as mental health consultant for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia for 25 years. Bob's Spanish skills enabled roles with World Health in Latin America and service with Central American and Vietnamese refugees in the U.S. He headed up an independent mental health clinic he began in Alexandria, VA, and joined multiple voyages of Semester at Sea (SAS) as psychologist aboard ship, chair of the shipboard mental health services committee, and researcher to establish a self-assessment program on the impact of SAS on its alumni. Bob taught cross-cultural psychology at Georgetown, George Washington, and George Mason Universities, lectured in clinical psychology at Kyoto (Japan) University, and was an IAIR Fellow.

See: <https://www.semesteratsea.org/2020/04/02/monthly-donor-highlight-dr-bob-weigl/>

**Remembering the passing of other intercultural friends, inspirations, colleagues:****Greg Trifonovitch** (d. April, 4, 2020)

Dan Landis wrote informing us: Many members of the Academy passed through the East-West Center in Honolulu and one time or another. In so doing you probably made the acquaintance of Greg who in the early eighties was the Director of the Culture and Communication unit, while Rich Brislin was a senior member of the Institute. I spent a sabbatical year in 1983 working with Rich and others. My wife and I spent a good deal of time with Greg and his wife. In the early days of the Peace Corps, Greg developed a South Seas islands simulation on one of the least populated islands. Greg was a cultural polymath: born in what was then Palestine of a Macedonian father and a Russian mother. By the time he emigrated to the US in the late 40s, he spoke at least seven languages; over time he added several more. He served in the Korean War and received American citizenship as he put it "In a foxhole." Greg and his wife were the most generous of people. If you needed help, he would drop everything and come to your aid. Greg leaves behind three children, numerous grandchildren, and two great granddaughters, preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Beverly. See: <https://obits.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/03/gregory-john-trifonovitch/>

**William "Bill" Divale** (d. April 24, 2020)

Brien Ashdown (Society of Cross-Cultural Research) writes: It is with great sadness that I pass along the information that Bill Divale, the only person to serve as SCCR president two separate times, passed away. Many people will remember Bill has a larger than life (and louder than life!) friend, mentor, and scholar with a great sense of humor. Sharon Glazer writes: This is very sad news. I got to know Bill in the late 1990s and was always so positive and excited about developing and supporting budding scholars. He really was larger than life. Andrey Korotayev and Svetlana Borinskaya write: Bill Divale symbolized for us competence, dedication to science, combined with personal charm, and his sense of humor enriched the traditions and ethics of cross-cultural research. We mourn this loss with colleagues and express our condolences to Bill's family. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Divale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Divale)

## Intercultural Research and Relations in the Time of Corona

by Steve J. Kulich, President of IAIR

### **Considering human needs in trying, needy times**

No matter what aspect of cross- or intercultural scholarship we focus on, in times like this when a pandemic spreads human suffering, social disruption, economic impact, and international stalemates across (or blocking) borders, each of us are concerned and affected. We are confronted with a situation and set of responses intricately linked to the study and practice of human and intercultural relations.

As Dr. Mike Ryan, Executive Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Health Emergencies Program recently stated: "Viruses know no borders and they don't care about your ethnicity or the color of your skin or how much money you have in the bank". These are times when we need to step beyond our personal, group, or national interests and exhibit empathy, show solidarity, and express attitudes fostering mutual support and cooperation for whatever programs our own or other nations' or regions have implemented. UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted, "it is shameful to see increasing acts of racial discrimination and prejudice as we fight the COVID19 pandemic," sentiments echoed in our "Statement of Solidarity" posted on our website.

### **Targeting our research to address pertinent current issues**

How can we as researchers and caring humans engage the research at our disposal to help address some of the social, psychological or intercultural issues that our societies and world are facing?

### **What does our research as scholars of intercultural relations offer to the world at this time?**

References:

Guterres, A. (2020). Reported at <https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/why-human-rights-central-covid-19-response/>

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IAIR Executive Committee and Board Members meeting at the 2019 Shanghai Conference (before we knew about social-distancing)

This raises issues that both necessitate our dialogue and likely a special issue on the Corona-virus (as Editor-in-Chief [Seth Schwartz has proposed](#)) so that we can offer reviews in this new light and new research to address important aspects of this pandemic.

### **Reexamining the salience shared human needs in times of extreme stress**

Starting with my own work on values and identity over these last decades, I'm reminded that much of what we claim to **be guided by** (whether

values, beliefs, social axioms, social patterns, personal attitudinal preferences) or **identify with** (our complex constructions of multiple identities, social roles, group/cultural affiliations) is often rooted in underlying and often unrecognized human needs. Michael Bond, in his closing address of the AASP in 2011 in Kunming, noted that psychology has not yet adequately addressed how human needs (like security, association/belonging, satisfaction, significance) are correlated to the cross-cultural constructs that we study. This may be our time!

William Shutz's early work on Fundamental Individual Relation Orientations (FIRO-B, e.g., Schutz, 1958, 1978) examined felt or expressed levels of our needs for inclusion, affection, and control.

How are these being affected by the measures taken to control a pandemic like this? What does our research suggest might provide people with new ways of having those needs met?

Shalom Schwartz and collaborators rooted their circumplex model of universal values (e.g., Schwartz & Bilsky, 1987) on the premise that value variations arise from our individual needs as biological organisms, requisites of coordinated social interaction, and survival and welfare of groups. Lawrence and Nohria (2002) expanded these, noting four drives that guide human choices: the need to (1) acquire, (2) bond, (3) learn, and (4) defend. Again, how are the almost daily corona pronouncements and practices influencing us, our own, or other groups at these levels?

## Intercultural Research and Relations in the Time of Corona (continued)

### ***Explicating implications and diverse responses to the virus with applicable research***

Whatever epistemological approach to research we each pursue (social science, interpretative/constructivist, or critical cultural approaches), this is a key time to re-examine many of our lines of research with new eyes. Control measures are pulling us back within our borders or even to our most intimate in-groups, so how can our knowledge on cross- and intercultural interactions help?

Many of you engage in research on the challenges to inter-group contact and are positioned to address issues highly relevant to the consequences of corona, like perceived cultural threats, stereotypes, biases, macro- and micro-aggressions, prejudice, discrimination, conflict, media representations, isolation/marginalization, the disadvantaged and vulnerable, cross-cultural counselling, anxiety, depression, violence, etc. How do virus responses bring your areas into focus now?

For each critical issue, people now need more hope, meaningful relationships, and recommended solutions. What does our research on adaptation, acculturation, perceived cultural distance, types/motives/trends of migration, social network formation, person-culture fit, relational maintenance, ecological factors, stressors, etc. suggest could be applied in this new coronavirus context: from acculturation orientations/outcomes, to dealing with stress, primary/secondary coping strategies, ethnic/group identification, social and institutional support, societal attitudes, etc.

For those examining intercultural education, training, diversity and inclusion, what are novel outcomes on IC competence development, multiculturalism, plurality, cross-cultural teamwork, the impact of online teaching, MOOCs, home-office blended with at-homeschooling, culture learning, etc.?

And how do cross-cultural dimensions like individualism and collectivism, cultural tightness and looseness, holistic or analytic thinking, etc. affect the way that policies are being implemented in cultural contexts and how is each populace adhering to them (maintaining social distancing, work-from-home measures, wearing masks if they are available, taking or reporting body temperatures, maintaining testing procedures, border closures, etc.)?

Almost all of our broad range of intercultural research areas impact aspects of how we approach

or reject others, form or react to social groupings, seek or give up on meaningful (inter)cultural contacts. L. Robert Kohls (in his "Survival Kit" 1984/2001) cautioned on not developing frames that judge or place the status of one society over another. Even if it seems that Maslow's hierarchy is being turned upside down to push people back toward insensitive survival instincts, he noted the danger of self-actualization that puts "our needs" over others: "the ultimate disease of our time is valuelessness.... The cure for this disease is obvious. We need...values that we can believe in and devote ourselves to..." and "principles of choice" to relate across cultures (Maslow, 1959; 1970, p. 52).

As Ross Steel (1990, p. 4) stated: "**Culture is the means by which a community communicates.**" What can we as a community of intercultural relations researchers contribute to our own understanding and how can we bring our research-rooted message to others? How can we better serve within our societies and across them to bring informed hope and practices to help in this time of need?

This could be **OUR** hour to show how we cross borders with knowledge, agency, and care!

#### References (Continued):

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As our web-page states: IAIR is made up of scholars from many disciplines: **Education, Anthropology, Management, Communication, Psychology, Sociology, and Policy Science** as well as others. Thus, in our efforts to better link with other cross- and intercultural related organizations, we aim to provide regular updates on conferences that may be of interest to our interdisciplinary membership. We're grateful to each of you who are helping build bridges with these and other associations!

Realities facing conference organization have become complex in 2020, with the impact of COVID-19 causing many long-planned events to be postponed – we DO hope that the virus is contained soon everywhere to prevent the devastating disruption to all aspects of our lives.

To help you keep your calendar up to date, here is a tentative list of the conferences (and perhaps more importantly, their webpages) in planning for 2020 and 2021. Another recommended source is <https://centerforinterculturaldialogue.org/category/conferences/>

- The Society for Cross-Cultural Research (SCCR linked to HRAF with the *Journal of Cross-Cultural Research*) successfully held their annual conference 26-29 February in Seattle (fortunately before the virus started to hit hard), and at the time of printing we are not sure of next year's (2021) location and time slot (watch <https://sccr.org>).
- The 7<sup>th</sup> biennial International Conference on the Development and Assessment of Intercultural Competence on "Internationalizing the Curriculum: The Role of Intercultural Competence" was held (January 23-26, 2020) by the University of Arizona's CERCLL, Tucson, Arizona, and online. <https://cercll.arizona.edu/event/2020-intercultural-competence-conference/>
- The 4th Cross-Cultural Communication Conference 2020: "Communicating diversity in the post-multicultural era: Exploring paradoxes, challenges and opportunities" (a network of 5 Asian universities) was held (Feb 6-7, 2020) in Perth, Western Australia. <https://ccccbangkok.com>

#### Likely still coming in some form in 2020:

- The 70th Annual International Communication Association Conference (Theme: Open Communication) has shifted to an entirely Virtual Conference (May 21-25, 2020) hosted from Gold Coast Hub, Queensland, Australia. <https://www.icahdq.org/page/ICA2020>
- The 26<sup>th</sup> International conference of the International Association of Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS <https://www.kent.edu/stark/iaics>), jointly organized by Manipal Academy of Higher Education and the University of Louisville was to be held May 28-31, 2020 in Manipal, India, but will be rescheduled due to the corona-virus. Check <https://iaics-2020-manipal.org>
- The 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Chinese Association For Intercultural Communication (CAFIC, our co-sponsoring partners for the Shanghai 2019 Joint Conference) have planned to meet (June 12-14, 2020) in Dali, Yunan, China, unsure of impact on dates yet) (their Chinese web-site: <http://szpjzx.hbue.edu.cn/29/ff/c5919a207359/page.htm>
- The 14th International Conference on Intercultural Communication and Conflict Management (ICICCM, sponsored by the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology) was planned (June 22-23, 2020) to be held in Venice, Italy <https://waset.org/intercultural-communication-and-conflict-management-conference-in-june-2020-in-venice>
- The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR <https://iamcr.org>) has moved the host for its 2020 conference from Beijing to Tampere, Finland as an online event: "Reimagining the Digital Future: Building Inclusiveness, Respect and Reciprocity" (July 12-16, 2020) <https://tampere2020.iamcr.org> and will hold its 2022 meeting at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. <https://beijing2020.iamcr.org/cfp>
- The 7th International Conference on Multicultural Discourses: "Multicultural Discourses in a Turbulent World" is still planned to take place (Oct 24-26, 2020, submission deadline: April 2, 2020) at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. <https://multiculturaldiscourses7.blogspot.com>
- The 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Association for Languages and Intercultural Communication (IALIC) on "Language, Culture and Interculturality: Global Debates, Local Challenges, (Nov, 25-27, 2020) at the Universidad De Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia <http://ialic.international/conference-2020-bogota/>
- The 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference (ICLASP-17) of the International Association of Language and Social Psychology (IALSP) <http://ialsp.org/conferences/> (delayed from June to Dec 9-12, 2020) will be hosted by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/engl/event/ICLASP17>

**Conferences affected by COVID-19 being postponed or re-planned** (see websites)

- Ken Cushner reported in an IAIR list-serve on the 20th International Conference on “Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations” (“Urban Diversities: Exclusions and Inclusion of Immigrants and Refugees at the Local Level”) conference originally slated to be held 10-12 June 2020 at the University of Milan, Italy. Due to COVID, see the website: <https://ondiversity.com/2020-conference>
- Brien Ashdown of SSCR reports that the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection (ISIPAR) planned their biennial Intercultural Conference (ICIAR) for June 30-July 3, 2020 at the University Institute of Maia (ISMAI), Porto, Portugal (<https://www.isipar2020.com/about-isipar-1>) but will likely cancel due to the corona virus. Check <https://isipar.uconn.edu>
- As a pre-conference event (was planned for June 9), Ken Cushner also directs the Intercultural Forum affiliated with the Laboratory of Sociology & Education, DESECE, University of Patras (<http://intercultural.upatras.gr/>) a forum active in intercultural learning and teachers' training, this year with the theme “Refugee and Migrant Education from Local Perspectives”. <http://intercultural.upatras.gr/index.php/intercultural-forum/6th-intercultural-forum/>
- Also, the 15th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences: “Reflecting on Community Building: Ways of Creating and Transmitting Heritage,” originally scheduled for 20-22 July 2020, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece will also likely be delayed. See <https://thesocialsciences.com/2020-conference>

**Now moved to or likely coming in 2021:**

With the impact of this year’s COVID-19, next Summer 2021 is stacking up to offer a full slate of conference options, especially in Europe (some with dates still not confirmed):

- European Congress of Psychology (ECP), in Ljubljana, Slovenia (July 6-9, 2021) <https://www.ecp2021.eu/> (aligned with EFPA)
- **OUR BIG EVENT** (thanks to Stefan Kammhuber’s planning and NOTICE in this newsletter) International Academy of Intercultural Research (IAIR) at HSR, Rapperswil, Switzerland (near Zurich) (July 10-14, 2021)
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Psychology (ICP): Psychology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Open Minds, Societies, & World” in Prague, the Czech Republic <https://www.icp2020.com> (aligned with <https://www.iupsys.net>)
- The 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP) on “Where is My Home? The Dynamics of Identities and Communications,” is rescheduled to be held July 24-29, 2021 at the Palacký University in Olomouc, the Czech Republic (see <https://www.iaccp2020.com>)
- SIETAR Europa is also due for a 2021 conference (dates not yet published, so watch <https://www.sietareu.org/seucongress2019/> or <https://www.sietareu.org>)

**Elsewhere around the world:**

- The International Association for Intercultural Education (IAIE) will hold its conference on June 28-30, 2021 at Kibbutzim College of Education in Tel-Aviv, in association with MOFET, IASCE and Ben Gurion University. The theme is “Intercultural Education in the Information Age” with a global focus on inclusion of minoritized and marginalized groups. [http://www.iaie.org/1\\_events.html](http://www.iaie.org/1_events.html)
- The Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) 2021 Conference will be held in Seoul, Korea (July 29-31, 2021) <http://www.aasp2021seoul.org>
- World Communication Association (WCA) conference will meet in Santiago, Chile 2021 (dates not yet published) <http://wcaweb.org>

If you know of other comparative, cross- or inter-culture related conferences please let Ripley ([r-smith@bethel.edu](mailto:r-smith@bethel.edu)) or me ([steve.kulich@gmail.com](mailto:steve.kulich@gmail.com)) know and we’ll update in the next newsletter. Of special interest are the “submission deadlines” for each conference. Thank you for helping us keep current with those related to our field so that we in the academy can be connecting and contributing.

July 10-14, 2021

at the University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland, Rapperswil (close to Zurich)

**Fostering Intercultural Hearts and Minds****Applying Intercultural Research for a Sustainable Future**

The world is on fever! How are we responding?

The Covid19 Pandemic-2020 has affected the entire world and created fear all around the globe. Countries have reacted to the crisis by shutting down the borders in order to protect 'their' people and 'their' national health care system. This follows other concerning developments in the first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 'Nationalists' and 'Anti-Globalists' are on the rise, widely inciting xenophobia, racism, anti-semitism/ -islamism/ -christianism/ -etc., and amorality among many people, acting aggressively against academia (i.e., questioning climate change) and the core ideas of the Enlightenment (i.e., labeling serious discussions as 'alternative facts' or 'fake news'), leaving in their wake the polarization of societies and interest groups steered by tribalistic attitudes and actions.

Even though our field has produced a vast body of intercultural knowledge, applied in many different professions over the past 60 years, the core idea of intercultural understanding is being challenged. What we espouse as something very valuable for humankind appears to be challenged in this age of 'post-globalization'. However, our unique expertise on developing bi-, and multicultural identities, on acculturation, migration and inclusion, on cultural and indigenous psychologies, on cultural differences and commonalities, on intercultural communication, counseling and therapy, on intercultural management, teams and leadership, on intercultural education, learning, and training, and many more topics, **could** serve as efficacious remedies for dealing with some of the most prominent challenges of our time.

Therefore, the IAIR biennial conference 2021 (July 10-14, 2021), to be held in Rapperswil/Zurich (Switzerland), will focus not only on sharing the results of current intercultural research among the scientific community but also on discussing the scope of application for other professions, and on making an impact on the public by intensive science communication.

Furthermore, as international conferences have an disastrous ecological footprint that contradicts our intention to work for a sustainable future, the 2021 IAIR conference will be organized as a 'green conference': strictly paperless and with opportunities to participate virtually for those scholars who want to avoid high ecological or monetary costs, or for those who just want to avoid an exhaustive travel to Switzerland because of age or health issues.

The conference will take place at the University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland in Rapperswil. The venue is located directly at Lake Zurich and can be reached in 30min by train from Zurich Central Station, or in 50min by train from Zurich International Airport. The campus is said to be the most beautiful in Switzerland, a place we can enjoy together! Plan on joining us!

It will be a pleasure for us to host you there!

*Stefan Kammhuber, Conference Organizer*

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