

**(Unapproved draft 1) Minutes
Monthly meeting of the PCUN
Psychology Coalition at the UN
Thursday, 9 March 2017 10:15 am
CUNY Grad Center,
635 Fifth Ave, NYC, room 5409**



Present: Florence Denmark (President), Harold Takooshian (Secretary), Lindsay Blevins, Melissa Bougdanos, Amanda Bradley, Zsuzsanna Feher, Ayorkor Gaba, Ani Kalayjian, Judy Kuriansky, Luke Lawson, Krystal Lozada, David Marcotte, Ciara Montalla, Corann Okorodudu, Deborah Olatunde, Leslie Popoff, Walter Reichman, Dinesh Sharma, Sonia Suchday, Joel Zinsou.

Guests: Ellen Raider (CSEND), Joelle Schantz (CSEND), students from Judy Kuriansky's course at Teachers College

1. **Welcome.** President Florence Denmark opened the meeting at 10:15 sharp. Florence again noted her intention to keep the meeting brief at 60 minutes, to allow 30 minutes for committee meetings, so the agenda asterisks * “action items,” and other items will not be covered unless there is a special reason. Walter welcomed two first-time guests to PCUN, Ellen Raider and Joelle Schantz of CSEND.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the last PCUN monthly meeting on 2/16/2017 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as-is: Approved by acclimation.
3. **PCUN Committee reports.**
 - a. **Advocacy.** Co-chairs David M and Leslie hope to pair interns with specific SDGs, during their committee meeting immediately following this PCUN meeting. A report will be attached as Appendix 1 of these minutes.
 - b. **Program.** (1) David M and Sonia noted that Psychology Day at the UN will be on April 20, the room holds over 550, and four three keynote speakers are now in place: Minu Hemmati, PhD, Ann Masten, Doug Oman, Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali. People should be sure to register by April 7, at <http://unpsychologyday.org> (2) Ani noted her March 23 parallel event with CSW61, cosponsored by PCUN. (3) Harold noted that our CUNY hosts invited PCUN members to share their work in a forum on "Psychology at the UN" on March 9, after today's meeting. A report will be attached as Appendix 2 of these minutes.
 - c. **Publicity.** Our webmaster Merry invited us to check and contribute news to our two websites, <http://psychologycoalitionun.org/> and <http://pcun.cloudaccess.host>
4. **Outreach.** Judy is updating her roster of Permanent Missions, for future re-circulation.
5. **PCUN Task Forces**
 - a. **INDICATORS AND MOIs:** Walter noted that the UN Indicators forum opted not to try to refine the current draft measures, with important "disaggregation."
6. Other new business or announcements

- a. **ICP.** This July 28-30, Pace will host the 75th conference of the International Council of Psychologists (ICP). A call will follow. Registration fees will be: \$200 ICP members, \$250 ICP nonmembers, \$75 ICP students, \$85 non-ICP students.
 - b. **Happiness.** Judy noted the International Day of Happiness will be celebrated at 1-3 pm on March 20, in UN conference room 8.
7. **Future meetings.** PCUN does not meet on April 20, so we can join Psychology Day. Meanwhile, President Denmark will announce a date for our next monthly PCUN meeting after consulting with our Executive Committee. Future PCUN meetings are May 18, June 15.
8. **Adjournment.** Florence adjourned the meeting early, at 11:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold Takooshian

Note: Based on PCUN Bylaw 6.1, President Denmark is appointing a 5-person Election Committee this March.



Appendix 1: Advocacy Committee

Dear PCUN Members and Interns,

This email is a follow up to the PCUN and Advocacy Committee meetings that took place yesterday. It was proposed that interns from the various PCUN organizations could be very helpful as well as learn from their exploring what psychology research has been conducted that aligns with the various SDG's.. Through this endeavor we can develop a network of psychologists engaged in research who are currently not affiliated with the UN, to whom we can outreach and collaborate. The following interns were present at this meeting and expressed interest as follows:

ATOP/Meaningfulworld -

Deborrah Olatunde	SDG 9
Daphne St. Valliere	SDG 9
Amanda Bradley	SDG 16
Melissa Bougdanos	SDG 16

IUPSYS

Natasha Grajine (sp.?)	SDG 5 and 10
ZsuZsa Feher	SDG 5 and 10

CSEND

Joelle Schantz	SDG 5 and 10
Ellen Raider	?

SPSSI Currently engaged in a literature review of the three APA Journals related to Social Issues, compiling a database for those SDG's identified by PCUN

ICP	Krystal Lozada	SDG 4
	Luke Lawson	SDG 4

As you can see, we have SDG's 4, 5, 9, 10, and 16 covered. We really need a review of the research to be done on the very important SDG 3 - Good Health and Well Being. If there is any organization NOT represented above, please ask any of your grad student/interns if they will assist with this and please let David and I know. We encourage the participation of all PCUN organizations in this endeavor.

Interns: Since SPSSI is reviewing the APA's Journals of Social Issues from 2014 - 2017, the rest of you can eliminate these journals from your review. Focus similarly on the past few years, and use David's suggestion of starting with "Review of the Literature.." articles.

Please plan to present your findings at the May PCUN meeting. This would including citing research article, authors, date (APA style), and if possible grouping the articles in several subheadings under the particular SDG.

*** If someone can provide a tutorial for the interns on the most efficient way to conduct such a review, and available resources, please let us know.

Have a great weekend,

Leslie Popoff and David Marcotte, PCUN Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs

Thanks to Krystal Lozada, below is the link for the endnote guides:

<http://endnote.com/support/online-user-manual/x7>

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Dr. Leslie Popoff

UN Coordinator, ATOP/MeaningfulWorld

<http://meaningfulworld.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/MeaningfulWorldOfficial>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa4eBBxmAzKuLxxOKSow_w

Appendix 2: CUNY forum highlighted psychology at the United Nations

"Since the United Nations formed in 1945, what are the growing roles of psychology in the United Nations?" This question was the focus of a forum on 9 March 2017, when over 40 students and professionals gathered in room C198 of CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. The 100-minute forum was in four parts.

First, the forum was welcomed by CUNY Professors **Michelle Fine** and **Susan Opatow**, and Alumni Director **James Cronin**, who described the CUNY psychology program's commitment to social change.

Second, the forum opened with a concise overview of the three-part structure of the United Nations (governments, agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations), and the gradual emergence of psychology NGOs in this structure. This began in 1976 with the Association for Women in Psychology (Takooshian & Shahinian, 2008), and now numbers 18 psychology NGOs.

Within the limited time, a panel of 13 expert psychologists and interns from the Coalition of Psychology Organizations accredited at the UN (PCUN) spoke a few minutes each on their varied activities. This was a remarkably diverse group of women and men from many cities and institutions: PCUN President **Florence L. Denmark** (Pace), **Walter Reichman** (Baruch), **Harold Takooshian** (Fordham), **Elaine P. Congress** (Fordham), **Sonia Suchday** (Pace), **Joel C. Zinsou** (Baruch), **Ani Kalayjian** (TC, Teachers College), **Amanda Bradley** (Montclair), **Melissa Bougdanos** (Binghamton), **Debbie Olatunde** (Ontario U), **Dinesh Sharma** (SUNY), **Robert Roy Clark**, and **Judy Kuriansky** (TC), who screened a six-minute film on youth and UN Ambassadors' voices about mental health.

Fourth, the panel segued into an open discussion of a few questions: (1) Unlike other fields, why was psychology so late in coming to the UN? Before the 1990s, psychological scientists and practitioners did not view their field as international, and it was not until 1997 that APA finally recognized international psychology as a specialty. (2) What challenges does psychology face within the UN? Many noted that across most of the 193 UN nations, psychologists are seen as "psychics" or "psychos," and thus misunderstood at the UN. (3) What are some achievements in the UN? Several panelists described their own progress across many roles, as psychological scientists, practitioners, educators, consultants, and activists. Key among these is the growing recognition that "mental health" is as important as physical health.

Professor **David Marcotte** (Fordham) noted that all can register this March for the tenth annual Psychology Day at the UN on April 20, when over 500 are expected to participate inside the UN in New York City, to hear distinguished speakers address the importance of well-being.

The audience discussion included many distinguished CUNY doctoral psychology alumni, including lawyer-psychologist **Jerry Cahn**, **John Cardwell**, **Robin Goldstein**, **Ansley Lamar**, and **Linda Sapadin**,

This forum was hosted by CUNY Graduate School, in cooperation with SPSSI-NY and PCUN. PCUN now holds its monthly meetings at CUNY. Details on PCUN are on-line at www.psychologycoalitionun.org Details on Psychology Day appear at <https://www.unpsychologyday.com/> Direct any other inquiries to takoosh@aol.com

