

PREFACE

The 59th Annual Conference of the International Council of Psychologists took place in Winchester, England from 8-12 July, 2001. Following on from the European Congress of Psychology in London in celebration of one hundred years of the British Psychological Society and concurrent with the IACCP Regional Conference in Winchester, members were provided an opportunity to meet colleagues and make new friends both within and outside of ICP. Winchester is the ancient capital of England and was used by William the Conqueror and King Henry VIII. From Winchester Cathedral to the Round Table reported to have been used by King Arthur, from the home of Jane Austen to the facilities of the conference site, Winchester was a perfect combination of medieval and modern in one city with easy access to the historical ports like Southport and Portsmouth and to archaeological sites as Stonehenge. We had a very successful conference – additionally we watched the sun set over Stonehenge as did the Druids of old. We stand in the presence of the Round Table as did the Knights of King Arthur and we heard the sounds and saw the sights of Britain and enjoyed the dinner in the beautiful Winchester Guild Hall. The papers of the conference build a bow from the invited paper by Esther Halpern “A Historic Perspective of the “Spirit” of ICP”, the keynote by Dietrich Albert about new emerging useful tools as “E-Learning” and the role of psychology in this field, the scientific contributions dealing with economic and career challenges of the present and the future up to threatening and supportive social themes as are the psychology of terrorism as well as the contributions of psychology to rehabilitation, psychotherapy and ethical issues. We included also the papers of an invited symposium of ICP held at the XXVII International Congress of Psychology in Stockholm, Sweden in July 2000 about “Retaining Vital Involvement in the Life Cycle” dealing with ageing and death. The bridge between this symposium and the ICP convention was thrown by the Presidential Address of Matti Gershenfeld with the title “A Society for All Ages” dealing with the results of the International Year of Older Persons 1999. We thank all delegates who came to Winchester and all contributors to the proceedings making ICP well known in the international scientific community.

Roswith Roth, Ludwig Lowenstein and Dennis Trent
Editors

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES

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INTRODUCTION

“We are in the midst of a silent revolution, one that extends well beyond demographics, with major economic, social, cultural, and psychological implications.” Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, October 1, 1998.

On September 30, 1999, I represented the International Council of Psychologists at the UN and culminating event of the International Year of Older Persons. I had been asked to attend by Sandra Neil, President of ICP. I believe she may have asked me as an officer and because I live in Philadelphia, less than 100 miles from the meeting site in New York City. I agreed to go primarily because she asked me.

The day was an awakening for me. There were a number of excellent speakers presenting their perspectives on aging in the world. The amazing part was the statistics. Of course, I recognized that I was aging, as were my friends. I didn't fully realize the global aspects of unprecedented aging. I was struck with a quotation by Dr. Bernard Starr, Professor of Gerontology at Marymount Manhattan College (UN, 1999) who said the longevity revolution is indeed a revolution, “comparable to the other great revolutions of history, the Renaissance and Industrial Revolution ... that transformed every aspect of life on this planet.”

Demographic changes worldwide are resulting in vastly increasing numbers and proportions of people over 60 years of age.

THE LONGEVITY NUMBERS (UN Population Aging, 1999)

The aging of the world's population is the result of the continued decline in fertility rates and advances in medical technology, which has increased life expectancy.

The number of persons aged 60 years or older is estimated to be nearly 60 million in 1999 and is projected to almost quadruple in 2050 to 2 billion. And, amazingly, at that time, the population of older persons will be larger than the population of children (0-14) for the first time in human history.

Percentage wise, the numbers are also startling. At present, one in every 10 persons is 60 or over; by 2050, that number will be 1 in 5 persons who are over 60, and the projection for 2150 is that 1 in 3 persons will be over 60.

And, the old keep getting older. Currently the oldest old (80 years or older) make up 11% of the population 60 years or older. The oldest old are the fastest growing segment of the older population, and by 2050, that number will almost double. The number of centenarians (aged 100 years or older) is projected to increase 15 fold, from approximately 145,000 in 1999 to 2.2 million in 2050. Imagine, one in every 5,000 people in the world will be over 100 years old.

Life expectancy has also shown dramatic gains. Life expectancy at birth has climbed about 19 years just in the past half century. Of those surviving to age 60, men can expect to live another 17 years and women, an additional 20 years.

Population aging also has important implications on gender balance. The majority of older persons (55 %) are women. The feminization of older population groups is a phenomenon observed throughout the world because women live longer than men. In 1998, the ratio was 190 females to 100 males among the oldest-old. More specifically, the ratio was roughly 2 to 1 among octogenarians 3 to 1 among nonagenarians (90 and above), and 4 to 1 for centenarians. There are two phenomena of the oldest-old: the older the age group, the faster it grows, and the higher it's female-male ratio.

Due to their higher life expectancy, most of the oldest old are widows. Forty to sixty percent of women over 60 may be widows, except in South America and some European countries where the percentage is in the 30's.

In both developed and developing countries, older men report living with and being cared for by their spouse at about four times the rate that women report.

Remember, older populations, particularly those over 80 years, are predominantly female; older women are more likely than men to be poor or illiterate.

The numbers feel unreal, and the implications are pervasive and mind-boggling.

ACTION BY THE UN

The UN, with growing awareness of the vast demographic changes, held the first World Assembling on Aging in 1982. (UN 1982) in Vienna, Austria. At that time, an International Plan of Action on Ageing was developed and later passed by the UN General Assembly. There were continued activities over the next 10 years to more broadly consider the needs of the aging and to develop a more complete and varied Plan of Action.

The UN Resolution on Aging was reaffirmed in 1991 and adopted as the United Nations Principles for Older Persons.¹

The Subject of aging was also addressed at the International Conference on Population and development held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994. (UN 1994). As regards older persons, the objectives set forth in the Programme of Action are: to enhance self-reliance and promote quality of life and productive and independent living to develop systems of health care services and economic and social security programs, recognizing the special needs of women to develop formal and informal social support systems to enhance the ability of families to take care of older persons within the family.

In a continuance of the concern and need for action implementation on the issues of aging, the UN General Assembly (in resolution 47/5 passed October 16, 1991) designated 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons. The theme of the year would be “A Society for All Ages”, “...in recognition of humanity’s demographic coming of age and the promise it holds for maturing attitudes and capabilities in social, economic, and spiritual undertakings, not least for global peace and development in the next century”. The resolution also reaffirmed the International Plan on Aging endorsed by the Assembly in Vienna in 1982 and the UN Principles for Older persons, adopted in 1991.

Aging, the UN, and ICP

The International Council of Psychologists has had consultive status as a non-governmental organization to the UN for more than 25 years. We have a standing UN Committee and we were invited to participate in the Millennium Forum as a questionnaire respondent, and as a member of the group discussing issues and priorities on the Agenda for Aging. And, we were invited to attend the Millennium Forum. This brings us full circle to my attendance on September 30, 1999, my “awakening” and subsequent actions.

1. Footnote: General Assembly Resolution 46/91 of December 16, 1991

The Millennium Forum and the Agenda for Aging

A questionnaire was sent to UN NGO members to identify issues of Aging and also to express their concerns. A second questionnaire was later sent, summarizing the information from the first survey and asking for a priority ranking as well as new concerns. These responses resulted in the Agenda for Aging (1999). The agenda for action priorities very briefly summarized are:

Peace and Security, including disarmament

Older persons are most vulnerable when there is civil unrest and war, and those situations their security is at risk. Moreover, under such conditions, there are migrations which create anxiety-ridden situations with lack of housing, food, medical care and undue suffering.

Further, older persons can contribute. The wisdom of older persons should be recognized. Older persons can be trained to be involved in conflict resolution, community building and reintegration.

Development and Poverty Eradication

There are many areas cited which are related to poverty eradication and development as follows:

a re-evaluation of a country's social policies with more attention paid to better pensions and development of income security and disability plans for older people; affordable housing; access to services; medical care; education; creation of opportunities to work. Work seems to be the crucial piece. Providing opportunities for work will pave the way for poverty eradication.

A mandatory retirement age must be abolished. Older people are arbitrarily dismissed when they reach a certain age, even though they are experienced and capable. It is a waste of human resources when those who are able to work are denied employment.

Human Rights

There is a great need for a Charter of Human Rights for older persons to which governments can be held accountable. This is needed along with suitable legislation to protect the rights of the elderly.

Further, it is necessary to create a legal framework that can challenge the violations against older persons, and prevent discrimination in many sectors of life including employment. In addition, the survival rights of income, food, housing, health, economic and social supports need to be affirmed.

Human Rights violations often appear in other forms. Older adults need protection from sexual abuse, battering, financial abuse, and lack of food.

Often, Older parents need to bring legal claims against their adult children; free legal assistance should be available to all older persons.

Strengthening the UN

Strengthen the UN Programme on Aging. The UN Programme on Aging has been vastly under resourced. It supports the Aging Committee. It could accomplish more in disseminating information and providing more support to the NGOs (us) if it had more resources that could facilitate programs.

The ICP Agenda for Action on Aging

As I said earlier, I was astounded by the impact the Millennium Day for Aging had on me. I kept murmuring some of the statistics I had heard over and over in the next couple of days – and thought, what can I do to increase awareness; to encourage conversation and discussion; to possibly influence others who make policy. What can I do to make a difference?

The ICP came to mind as the perfect vehicle!

The International Council of Psychologists, as you know, is an organization of over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists from more than 60 countries. Psychologists join as individuals because of an interest in travel and conferences, collegueship, or publications.

Originally founded as the Council for Women Psychologists, there is a continued large proportion of the membership which is female, concerned with women's issues, and issues of human rights and peace. In addition, to officers and committee chairs, ICP is organized with area chairs by countries or states or regions.

Area chairs, living and working in a region, routinely interact with their members, spread the word of ICP at local conferences, and encourage membership.

It seemed to me that area chairs would be perfect – to think about what they could do to create a society for all ages derived from their access to others,

their knowledge of their geographic area, their particular interests related to aging. Working with area chairs meant ICP could use its unique resources to encourage action on behalf of aging populations. It would be tailored to that psychologist, that part of the world, and their decision of a first place to start. Further, as president-elect (to become President in July of 2000) I could implement a program to have ICP take on a major project of action on behalf of aging.

First, I described my vision to the ICP Board of Directors in Padua. Each area chair would be asked to develop a project on aging for their region. To become prepared, they would receive a packet of UN Aging materials; they would then take action. (Because ICP was going through a period of serious financial difficulty, I volunteered to send out the packet of materials and other correspondence from my office and at no expense to ICP.) The Board unanimously approved and was very supportive of moving forward with this kind of action.

The plan was also described at the ICP Business Meeting. Questions were raised and responded to; there were no objections and members present learned more about the “aging revolution” (with amazement, similar to mine, when I first heard the data).

The ICP Aging Project

In the Fall of 2000, the World Area Chair and area chairs received a letter and a packet of materials from me. They were asked to read the materials to become knowledgeable about the world aging situation (and their region's data), and then to develop a plan to influence action on behalf of the aging and the growing aging population. It could be a talk, a meeting, a course, a letter to legislators, informal conversations, presentation at a conference. What could they do, given their interests, contacts, or imaginative possibilities? They would be asked to report in June 2001. It was a first for ICP – to take on major project by area chairs, to be defined and implemented by the chairs and members in their regions.

The materials sent were the UN Population Aging 1999 publication with figures on each country belonging to the UN; The UN pamphlets on demographics of Older Persons; the Millennium Forum, Agenda on Aging and a Bibliography, the Second Half of Life: The Search for Meaning.

Later in the year, the same request and the same materials were sent to the officers of ICP, the Board of Directors, and all Committee Chairs.

RESULTS

I was very enthusiastic and optimistic when I sent out the letter and materials. I attempted to temper my hopes with reality – not everyone would “buy in”, no be motivated to take some action. It was a new idea for ICP and a new project; it takes people a while to think about this enlarged role.

I needn't have bothered quelling my expectations, the outcomes were much greater than even I had hoped.

In all, I heard from 37 people. A few replied almost immediately asking for additional copies of the attractive UN Population 1999 materials. They, too, reported their surprise when they read the statistics. The materials were sent as requested.

In the course of the year, others replied with great pride at what they had done. Ten replied they had prevailed with their universities to create and teach a course (courses) on aging. Others said they were (or would be) teaching a course on aging as part of a continuing education program for psychologists; others were teaching a one day workshop in their communities. One respondent had arranged for a workshop utilizing the work of Zalman Schachter to be held by the association of clinical psychologists; it was to be a service spiritual program for psychologists to be more aware of the implications of their own aging. The program was called, From Aging to Saging.

A member submitted and presented programs at their psychological conferences, utilizing the data received to good responses. Their letters indicated they responded to the challenge and that they were pleased with the outcomes.

One area chair wrote a series of articles for her local newspaper, with each article highlighting a different aspect/concern about aging.

A few, about five, but more than anticipated, knew a legislator or government official personally and set up a meeting to discuss what they could do.

Three area chairs used the materials on the subject of aging and what they could do, as the impetus to invite ICP members in their region to a meeting and discussion.

One person appeared on a radio talk show to discuss world aging.

A number of respondents reported talking to colleagues, making presentations at their churches, or engaging in conversations on the subject in community groups.

Some apologized and said they hadn't gotten started, but would implement their plans shortly.

CONCLUSION

The project was a great success. Certainly whichever approach was taken there was increased awareness of aging problems forthcoming in the 21st century. There was more learning, more thought about possible changes needed, more discussion, and even more possibilities for increased future action.

I would recommend that this project be continued and amplified beyond this year. Further, I recommend that ICP consider having an annual project to implement its mission goals – a special benefit for both leaders and members of ICP.

And finally, on the subject of aging, there is a statement by N. Desai at the launch of the International Year of Older Persons:

“Longevity is a success. It is something human beings have wanted from the year dot! The fact that we are getting it should not be seen as a problem. It should be seen as an achievement.”

Now, consider what action you will take!

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HISTORY OF ICP: A HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE OF THE "SPIRIT" OF ICP

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INTRODUCTION

In this address, which I was so kindly invited to present this morning, I was asked to give a historical overview of the development of ICP. However, I decided not to deal exclusively with the topic, which has been broached repeatedly in a descriptive manner, in writings about the association (Sexton, 1982; Halpern, 1984, 1987; Cautley, 1990). I chose instead to trace the source of something that I consider to be the essence of this history that has not been mentioned as such previously, in connection with ICP, its "spirit" (Halpern, 2001b). I chose this concept, as it brings into focus a central characteristic that reflects the core and the development of the organization and to which I refer as the "Spirit of ICP". It becomes the thread to be followed in this historic perspective, in whose context its meaning gains clearer dimensions. The source of the ICP "spirit" is seen to evolve along with its history. In this paper I will explore the various facets of the essence of this 'something special', which the association has conveyed to many of us. Actually one can trace ICP's "spirit" to the circumstances of its founding. It was World War Two that prompted a group of women psychologists to identify with the help being offered on the home front, an occurrence witnessed in many other fields across the USA. Such "volunteering" (Halpern, 1974) probably gave a tone to what I think of as its "spirit", along side with the formulations of one of its aims, the establishment of "...a profession... with respect to contributions of women throughout the world..." (Halpern, 1987). In this vein, along side with the development of its "spirit", the first section of this paper, gives a brief historic perspective of ICP's growth and key pioneering figures, who contributed to it. In the next section, I address the structure and the organization of this association that has been instrumental in achieving its stated aims. Globalization of psychology is seen to

intertwine with ICP's built-in facilitators of the internationalization of psychology itself, and contribute to its special character, to this "spirit" of ICP, which was set out at its inception: "to promote psychology...*throughout the world*" (Sexton, 1982). I conclude by highlighting current dilemmas and challenges that ICP has to confront in the future, if we are to consider the survival of its "spirit".

A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

ICP has been seen to be part of the group of international organizations that focus on 'general' psychology. It has been referred to as third in importance of international associations, following the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) and the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP). All three organizations are considered to help in the development and the application of psychology on a world basis, as Ardila's perspective on international psychology points out (Ardila, 1982).

Although ICP's original roots are to be found in the USA, it has always had as its goal..." to promote psychology as a science and a profession... *throughout the world*" (Sexton, 1982). This aim was formulated at its inception in the 1940's and made explicit in 1946, when the word 'international' was included in its title. The statement, uncovered in the association's archives by the late past-president and psychological historian Virginia S. Sexton (1982), was not merely an agenda for scientific fellowship and networking around the world. It also contains a call for the internationalization of psychology, one of today's 'hot' issues in the field, whose "zeitgeist" ICP predated by some sixty years. It represents a historical milestone that lends meaning to the direction ICP has taken by the beginning of this 21st century.

ICP was started in 1941 by a group of psychologists who identified themselves as "*women*", contributing to the home front war effort during the Second World War, undoubtedly as part of the period's manpower realities. Along side these founders described themselves as "*women psychologists*", engaged in: "...a profession with respect to contributions of *women* throughout the world..." (Halpern, 1987). This statement, put forth at its very beginning of ICP, not only foretold important future trends in psychology, but was also an assertion about women, far ahead of the "Zeitgeist" of the 1940's. As Sexton's (1982) quote from the ICP archives would suggest, it contains what I consider in today's context to be a strong, if undetected feminist affirmation for the goals of an association of the 1940's (Halpern, 1987).

Led by a committee headed by Clairette Armstrong as its chair and Gladys Schwesinger as secretary, the group initially bore the name of the *National Council of Women Psychologists*. Some 240 of its chartered members elected its first slate of officers with Florence Goodenough as its first president, and incorporated the association in June 1942 (Sexton, 1982). The international status of its founders and its first officers, as well as the foresight reflected by the above-mentioned goal of a global psychology for the organization, are noteworthy points in ICP's development (Halpern, 1987; Halpern, 2001b).

ICP went on to widen its sights beyond the national boundaries of its birthplace, by extending its membership outside the USA and by changing its name to the *International Council of Women Psychologists*, in 1946. The doors of the organization were opened to the "other sex" in 1959 with the acceptance of male members. As a result the organization changed its name in 1967, to become the *International Council of Psychologists*, under the leadership of its first male president: Henry P. David. (Halpern, 1984; Halpern, 1987).

Although by 1952 ICP's membership comprised 30 psychologists from outside North America, it was only in 1978, with the election of Lisette Fanchon from France to the post of president, that the organization reflected its international character. Since then, it has continued to elect to this highest post of leadership, members from a diversity of geographic locations around the globe (Halpern, 1987; Halpern, 2001b; Sexton, 1982). Following France's representation in this highest position, presidents were elected, in chronological order, from the following countries. -From Australia in 1982 and 1998, -from Israel in 1983, -from Norway in 1985, -from Mexico in 1987, -from Hong Kong in 1988, -from Japan in 1990, -from the Netherlands in 1992, -from Canada in 1993 and 1996, -from Taiwan in 1995, -from Austria in 2001. Even greater national diversity has existed in its elected executive leadership and the board of directors at large. Up to the present, ICP can be seen to have elected its leadership from the following countries, listed in alphabetic order. They have represented Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Though having started as a US organization, ICP's expanding horizons have reached a measure of globalization, which has been illustrated up to this point, by listing non-USA members' role in guiding the organization. At this point, I must emphasize however, the *significant* role played by leading United States

psychologists, in their elected leadership positions of ICP. To mention just a few, are past presidents of the American Psychological Association and of the International Association for Applied Psychology: Joseph Matarazzo, Charles Spielberger, Florence Denmark and Frank Farley, all of whom have been ICP Presidents. Also among APA's officers, who have served as ICP Presidents, mention must be made of Frances Culberson, Peter Meranda, Virginia Sexton and Stephanie Dudeck.

Over the years ICP has achieved recognition among psychologists around the world. Underlining its international character, is the fact that its membership of over one thousand psychologists comes from 65 countries. ICP has grown not only in its expanding membership, but also in the complexity of its structure and organization. This latter topic is addressed in the next section of my perspective on the "spirit" of ICP.

THE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF ICP

In its development, ICP has shown the flexibility needed to cope with change, as circumstances and the trends of times warranted it. From a small national association, it had evolved into a complex international organization that has the structure, which has proved to be instrumental in reaching these goals.

The Secretary-General

Starting with the year 1976, ICP has included in its non-elected leadership, the post of Secretary-General. The first psychologist to fill this office was one of ICP's original founders, Frances A. Mullen. In 1979 Georgia S. Adams, followed in her footsteps. Both these pioneer- Secretary-General, in line with the "spirit" of ICP, functioned primarily in a volunteer and occasionally, nominally paid position. Along with the next Secretary-General, Patricia W. Cautley, who served from 1983 to 1991, all three left a mark on ICP, as they tailored this role with their own characteristics of dedication and volunteering in the pursuit of the organization's goals, formulated at its inception. I think that this illustrates the aspect of three individuals' contributions to defining one of the parameters the ICP "spirit".

The organization's flexibility is what allowed for an evolution in the Secretary-General's role necessary to meet the demands set on a growing ICP. At its 1984 meeting in Mexico City, the board approved the President's request, (Halpern, 1984), to give *clear structure to the time and remuneration demands*

put on the Secretary-General's office, in keeping with the responsibilities and practices of such a position in large, modern professional organizations (Halpern, 1984).

The Executive and The Board of Directors at Large

The elected leadership of ICP is made up of the Executive and the Directors at Large. The Executive comprises the President, who serves on the board for three years as: President-Elect, President and Past-President. The other two elected executive posts on the board, Secretary and Treasurer are for terms of three years respectively. As of 1985, also serving for periods of three years, are the 12 Board Members representing the geographically wide distribution of ICP's membership at large.

'Interest Groups' vs. Divisions

ICP has evolved in the complexity of its professional functioning and has broadened the range of its activities. 'Interest groups', instead of divisions, meet informally to plan on working together on matters of mutual interest and concern. Joint research projects across national groups and symposia presentations are some of the outcomes of their endeavors. Within this framework, 'interest groups' can be contrasted with the structured traditional divisions of most psychological associations. They can be informally established whenever the need arises, allowing for changes in their focus and labels according to variations in the constellation of participants at any given conference. They reflect the needs and concerns of the membership at given points in time, rather than fashions of the times. 'Interest groups' allow for the ease of meeting colleagues in small groups, fostering encounters of old timers with newcomers and researchers from wide ranges of cultures and national locations. In this manner networking is unpretentiously fostered. I think that these 'interest groups' are ingredients of, and vehicles of the "spirit of ICP".

Individual's Networks Cross Geo-political Boundaries

Another aspect of ICP's structure and organization that further defines the "spirit" of ICP is in the way it is geared to reach out to psychologists beyond national professional groups. Unlike the IUPsyS, which represents national psychological organizations, ICP does not recruit through associations. Its members come from countries that may or may not have such formalized psychological groups and join ICP as *individuals*. In the true "spirit" of its founders' stated goals, they are not considered in terms of national

representation, but rather as *individual psychologists, in diverse geographic locations, with the unifying purpose to “promote psychology as a science and as a profession...throughout the world”* (Halpern, 1987).

The apolitical character of ICP furthermore supports a non-provincial approach to membership. Most importantly it allows for encounters across *geo-political boundaries* (Halpern, 1984), which would not be otherwise feasible for psychologists from countries whose governments may not have necessarily diplomatic relations. Furthermore, in order to avoid any political, religious, or racial discrimination, its by-laws stipulate that annual conventions cannot take place in venues that would exclude the presence of any of its members (Halpern, 1984; 1987). *In this essence of person to person professional interactions, ‘extending beyond geo-political boundaries’ (Halpern, 1984) of ever changing world realities, one can see the ICP “spirit” that this paper addresses.* A person to person networking is further promoted by another aspect of ICP’s structure. It is facilitated by contacts with colleagues in the informal atmosphere of conventions where the usual hierarchy of participants is deliberately ignored. I now turn to this aspect of the association’s make-up: its yearly conferences.

Annual Meetings.

Annual meetings are an integral part of the structure that is built into the association’s by-laws and underscore one of the anchors of the “spirit” of ICP. Its yearly conventions are small and held at a variety of geographic locations that make it possible at some point, for most members to attend.

At these *annual meetings* ongoing scientific and collaborative research projects are thus facilitated and further backed by the networking of ‘interest groups’. These projects are collaborative ventures that allow for *real* cross-cultural transmissions in the course of *two-way exchanges in the research process* (Halpern, 2000; Halpern, 2001a; Mays, Rubin, Sabourin, & Walker, 1996). The opportunity to share findings and plan further steps in joint projects at *yearly intervals* gives them thus continuity. This is marked contrast to other international organizations, most of which hold their congresses every two or every four years.

The frequency of yearly meetings promotes the informal nature of social contacts over regular periods of time. Social interactions with colleagues are thus build up over the years at ICP’s *annual conventions*, facilitating interactions across nationalities and hierarchies. They are highly valued by new as well as long time members and are among the ingredients of the “spirit” of ICP addressed in this paper.