

BULLETIN

The International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology



In This Issue

<u>Presidential Column</u>	02
<u>Growing Together: The Next Generation of IACCP by Zeynep Ayca, Past-President</u>	04
<u>Welcoming Our New Executive Council Members</u>	07
<u>Conference report IACCP 2026</u>	09
<u>Call for Expressions of Interest to Host the 2028 IACCP International Congress</u>	11
<u>How Cultural Norms Shape Psychology: New Insights from Cultural Psychology</u>	13
<u>IACCP Travel Support Awards – Leuven, Belgium, 2025</u>	15
<u>When Identity Becomes Triadic: Reflections from IACCP 2026 in Leuven</u>	20
<u>Congratulations!</u>	22
<u>IACCP Membership</u>	23
<u>About the Bulletin Editor</u>	25

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Presidential Column: Looking Ahead Together

It is a great honor and privilege to write my first President's Column following the successful IACCP Congress in Leuven, Belgium. A little over a month ago, at the close of the Congress, I assumed the presidency of our Association for the next two years. I am deeply grateful for the trust that members have placed in me, and I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to strengthen and advance our global community of scholars and practitioners.

Before looking ahead, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Professors Karen Phaet, Jozefien De Leersnyder, Batja Mesquita, and their colleagues for organizing an outstanding Congress in Leuven. The Congress provided a rich forum for scientific exchange, stimulating discussion, new collaborations, and the renewal of friendships across cultures and continents. Their dedication and hard work created an environment that reflected the very best of IACCP.

My year as president-elect provided an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of our Association and the many individuals who contribute their time, expertise, and energy to its success. Working closely with our Past President, Zeynep Aycan, members of the Executive Committee, regional representatives, and other volunteers has given me a deeper appreciation of both the opportunities, and the complexities involved in leading a truly international scientific association.

One lesson that has become increasingly clear to me is that leadership is not primarily about what one person accomplishes. Rather, it is about creating the conditions that enable others to contribute, collaborate, and flourish. As the saying goes, the greatest leaders are not necessarily those who do the greatest things, but those who help others achieve great things. I hope to embrace that spirit of shared leadership throughout my presidency.

As I begin this term, my vision for IACCP rests on four closely connected priorities: building on the important work already underway within the Association, strengthening our global community, supporting the next generation of cross-cultural scholars, and expanding opportunities for meaningful participation from all regions of the world.

When I stood for election, I emphasized the importance of diversity and inclusion. Those commitments remain central to my vision for IACCP. Diversity matters greatly to me, not only in terms of geography, culture, and ethnicity, but also in terms of perspectives, experiences, methodological approaches, career stages, and institutional contexts. I want IACCP to continue being a place where members feel welcomed, respected, valued, and supported, regardless of where they come from or how they engage with our discipline.

As President, I see my role as supporting the many individuals who contribute to the life of our Association and helping create opportunities for broader participation and engagement. I am particularly committed to ensuring that all regions have a voice within IACCP and that our Association continues to attract, support, and nurture both established scholars and the next generation of researchers.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In the coming months, we will build on several important initiatives already underway. One such initiative is the membership survey introduced during the previous presidency. The survey has provided valuable insights into members' experiences, priorities, and expectations, and I look forward to continuing this conversation with the membership. Listening carefully to our members will help ensure that the Association remains responsive, inclusive, and relevant.

Looking further ahead, 2027 will be an important year for strategic planning. Together, we will reflect on where IACCP is today, where we would like it to be in the future, and how best to achieve those aspirations. This process will provide an opportunity for members to help shape the future direction of our Association and identify priorities that reflect the diverse voices and interests represented within our community.

As part of these efforts, we will also seek to strengthen connections with national and regional psychological associations, particularly in regions that have historically been underrepresented within international scholarly networks. Expanding participation, reducing barriers to engagement, and supporting global collaboration remain essential if IACCP is to continue fulfilling its mission as a truly international scientific society.

Another important priority in the coming months will be identifying the host institution and organizing team for our 2028 International Congress. Earlier this month, a call for Expressions of Interest was circulated through the IACCP listserv, inviting institutions and organizing teams to consider hosting the Congress. To ensure broad visibility across the membership, the call is also reproduced in this Newsletter. I encourage members to discuss this opportunity within their institutions and professional networks and to consider whether their region may be ready to welcome the global IACCP community in 2028. I would be particularly delighted to see proposals from regions that have historically been underrepresented among our Congress hosts. Further details, including the timeline and submission requirements, are provided in the accompanying call elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Our Congresses are the heartbeat of the Association. They bring us together to share knowledge, challenge assumptions, develop collaborations, and strengthen the relationships that sustain our professional community. The decisions we make over the coming months will help shape the next chapter of IACCP and the future of cross-cultural psychology more broadly.

IACCP has always been much more than a scientific association. It is a community united by a shared commitment to understanding the complex relationship between culture and human behavior, and by a belief that such understanding can contribute to greater dialogue, mutual respect, and human well-being around the world.

I look forward to learning from you, hearing your ideas, and working together over the next two years. The future of IACCP will ultimately be shaped not by any single President or committee, but by the collective wisdom, energy, and commitment of its members.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

David L. Sam
President, IACCP



Growing Together: The Next Generation of IACCP

Zeynep Aycan
Past-President

As my term as President of IACCP comes to an end at the Leuven Congress, I find myself thinking less about endings and more about continuity. Almost 55 years ago, a remarkable group of scholars created an association that has connected generations of cross-cultural psychologists around the world. Everything we are able to do today rests on the foundation they built. The question facing us is therefore how we honour that legacy by continuing to build upon it. This was the central message of my Presidential Address at the XXVII Congress of IACCP in Leuven entitled “Growing Together: The Next Generation of IACCP.”

The founding generation courageously established cross-cultural psychology as a respected field within mainstream psychology. It was a privilege to celebrate this legacy in Leuven in presence of the pioneers John W. Berry and Walter Lonner, alongside members of the institution-building generation, including Ype Poortinga, Heidi Keller, Patricia Greenfield, Debbie Best, Judith Gibbons, Peter Smith, Michael Bond, and Pierre Dasen. Their contributions remind us that IACCP itself has always been a work in progress. Each generation has inherited something valuable from those who came before and has had the responsibility to carry it forward.

During the preparation of my address, I revisited IACCP’s history as well as my own journey within the Association. I was struck by how some of the questions we are asking today have accompanied IACCP for many years. In a 2009 IACCP Bulletin column, Bill Gabrenya reflected on comments he had heard from members who felt that they did not quite fit in, were hearing the same ideas repeatedly, or perceived the Association as being dominated by an inner circle. He ended by asking two deceptively simple questions: “What’s going on?” and “What is to be done?” Seventeen years later, these questions are still worth exploring. This does not mean that IACCP has stood still. Far from it. The Association has evolved enormously, as has cross-cultural psychology itself. I like to think of organisational development as an upward spiral: we sometimes return to familiar questions, but encounter them from a different place, with new knowledge, new generations and new possibilities. This is what I called continuity through renewal.

Building on this extraordinary legacy, the next generation of IACCP has the opportunity to cultivate an even more empowering culture; one that broadens participation, welcomes diverse voices, and creates the conditions for excellent ideas to emerge from every corner of our global community. Throughout this journey, science remains our shared north star.

From power to empowerment

Preparing my Presidential Address gave me an opportunity to step back from the intensity of the past two years and reflect on what we had been trying to achieve together. Inspired by the framework for my forthcoming book on next generation leadership: transforming the culture of power into empowerment, I mapped our major initiatives onto the G.R.O.W.T.H. culture-change model I had developed. What I discovered surprised me. The many decisions, conversations and initiatives that had sometimes felt like separate pieces formed a remarkably coherent pattern. Together, they told the story of an Association gradually evolving toward a more empowering culture.

Through the model of culture change, I explore how organisations can create conditions in which people have greater opportunity and capacity to contribute, exercise judgment, assume responsibility and influence collective outcomes. Looking at our work in IACCP through this lens helped me see a common thread running through many of our initiatives.



We experimented with numerous “firsts.” We introduced a co-editorship model for JCCP to promote qualitative and indigenous research. We also shifted JCCP to be a digital-only journal to increase its outreach and accessibility. We developed Executive Council job descriptions to clarify responsibilities and accountability. We strengthened financial planning and budgeting. We developed transparent principles for responding to requests for public statements, guided by dignity, respect, diversity of views, scientific integrity and avoidance of harm. We developed new institutional partnerships. We created the EDUCATE mentorship programme to strengthen member development and intergenerational learning. And, perhaps most importantly for IACCP's future, we initiated the Association's first comprehensive strategic-planning process. Those wishing to see the fuller picture of the work undertaken during this period can find the Executive Committee reports on the IACCP website under the Publications tab → IACCP Activity Reports.

Seen together, these initiatives represented something larger than a collection of activities. They reflected an effort to create the conditions for a more inclusive, participative and empowering IACCP; one in which members have greater opportunities to contribute to, take responsibility for, and ultimately co-create the future of their Association. My deepest thanks go to my fellow Executive Committee members. Every achievement of the past two years was a collective achievement, and it has been one of the greatest privileges of my academic life to serve alongside such generous colleagues and friends.

What does the next generation mean?

The phrase “next generation” can easily be misunderstood as referring primarily to younger scholars or to the people who will replace the current generation of leaders. That is not how I use it. It describes an Association that preserves the scientific rigour, global engagement, intellectual curiosity and relationships that generations of IACCP members have built, while widening opportunities for participation, contribution and leadership.

Our 2026 membership survey (see the findings under Publications tab → IACCP Activity Reports) reinforces the importance of doing this. Members continue to value IACCP highly for advancing science, international and intercultural communication, and the social connections created through our congresses. At the same time, the findings point toward areas requiring further attention. Practical application and problem-solving remain a particular gap. Members also expressed aspirations for greater regional representation, career-development opportunities, mentorship, accessibility and more transparent pathways into leadership.

The qualitative responses were equally illuminating. They revealed different constituencies within our Association: experienced and loyal members who deeply value IACCP's scientific traditions and face-to-face connections; emerging professionals looking for practical value, visibility, mentoring and career pathways; and voices from underrepresented regions asking IACCP to extend its reach and make its global mission more fully visible in its practices. The challenge (and the opportunity) is to create an Association in which these different generations, regions and voices can grow together.

Finding our voice — and taking responsibility

One of the ideas I explored toward the end of my Presidential Address was that empowerment is about finding one's voice. For an international scholarly association, voice matters enormously. People need to feel able to express ideas, raise concerns, question established practices, introduce unfamiliar perspectives and disagree respectfully. This requires psychologically safe spaces and structures that protect dignity and encourage participation. During the Leuven Congress, we sought to strengthen such conditions through our Ombudspersons, opportunities to participate in strategic-planning conversations and the General Assembly, greater transparency through activity reports, and explicit invitations to members to participate in co-creating IACCP's future.



Yet finding one's voice is only one part of empowerment. Voice does not mean saying anything, at any time, in any manner. It means having the courage to raise concerns, offer criticism, and suggest improvements with respect and professionalism, guided by a genuine concern for the well-being and development of the Association. Constructive voice is therefore both a right and a responsibility.

Finding our voice also means being prepared to contribute to the changes we advocate. When we identify something that could be improved, empowerment invites us to ask not only, "What should the leadership do about this?" but also, "How might I help?" This may mean volunteering for a task force, contributing expertise, mentoring others, helping develop a new initiative, or taking responsibility for bringing a promising idea to life. An empowering culture grows when members see themselves as active contributors to the Association rather than expecting every problem to be solved and every initiative to be delivered by those in formal leadership positions. Empowerment, in this sense, brings voice and ownership together: the freedom to contribute to the conversation and the willingness to share responsibility for what happens next.

From aspirations to a roadmap: Growing together

This brings me to one of the most important pieces of work we initiated during our term: IACCP's strategic-planning process, which I agreed to facilitate. Strategic planning offers us an opportunity to create a roadmap together: to decide what we want to preserve from our extraordinary legacy, where we need renewal, how we can strengthen our scientific and societal contribution, and how we can become more inclusive and representative of the global community we seek to serve. These questions belong to all of us. Our roadmap should emerge through consultation, dialogue and co-creation across our membership, which has already started in the Leuven Congress. That, for me, is where strategic planning and empowerment meet. It allows us to translate voice into direction, aspirations into priorities, and priorities into accountable action, while providing continuity across successive generations of leadership.

As I hand over the presidency, I do so with enormous gratitude: to the generations who built IACCP before us; to the Executive Committee and colleagues with whom I have had the privilege of working; and to our members across the world who continue to make this Association an intellectual and professional home. We have inherited an extraordinary Association, and we share responsibility for carrying its strengths forward while renewing it maintaining "science" as our north star.



Welcoming Our New Executive Council Members

The International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP) is delighted to announce the results of the recent Executive Council elections and to warmly welcome our newly elected colleagues. Their election reflects the confidence of the membership in their scholarly expertise, leadership, and commitment to advancing cross-cultural psychology across all regions of the world.

As a truly global association, IACCP benefits enormously from the diversity of perspectives represented within its leadership.

Newly Elected Executive Council Members

Name: Emma Buchtel

Position: President-Elect

Affiliation: The Education University of Hong Kong

Name: Kumar Ravi Priya

Position: Regional Representative, South Asia

Affiliation: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India

Name: Ayu Okvitawanli

Position: Regional Representative, Southeast Asia

Affiliation: Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS), Indonesia

Name: Camelia Dwairy

Position: Regional Representative, Middle East and North Africa

Affiliation: Oranim Academic College of Education, Haifa

Name: Li-Jun Ji

Position: Regional Representative, North America

Affiliation: Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Name: Vassilis Pavlopoulos

Position: Regional Representative, Europe

Affiliation: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Name: Thiago G. Nascimento

Position: Regional Representative, South America

Affiliation: University of Brasília, Brazil

Name: Francisco Leonardo Soler Anguiano

Position: Regional Representative, Central America

Affiliation: National Autonomous University of Mexico

Name: Collins Badu Agyemang

Position: Regional Representative, Central and Southern Africa

Affiliation: University of Ghana, Ghana

These newly elected Executive Council members assumed their duties at the closing of the 2026 Leuven conference, on July 17, 2026.



Acknowledging Leadership Transitions

Following the successful completion of a distinguished presidential term, Professor Zeynep Aycan (Loughborough University, UK) has now assumed the role of Past President of IACCP.

We are also pleased to welcome Professor David L. Sam (University of Bergen, Norway) as the current President of IACCP.

Communication and Publication Committee

The Executive Council is also pleased to announce the extension of Professor Rachana Bhangaokar's appointment as Chair of the Communication and Publication Committee through 2030. Professor Bhangaokar is affiliated with The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. Gujarat. India.



Conference report IACCP 2026 Karen Phalet, Jozefien De Leersnyder

The 28th edition of the International Congress of the IACCP took place at the University of Leuven in Belgium July 14 to 18th 2026. The conference was a happy and inspiring gathering of 600+ cultural and cross-cultural psychologists. Participants travelled from 60+ countries across world regions from South, East and South-East Asia, Southern and Central Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, and South, Central and North America, to Europe, making it a truly global encounter.

Thanks to their/your excellent scholarly contributions – and the generous reviewing work of dedicated scientific committee members and 75 external reviewers – the conference offered a rich and very full scientific program. To clarify and ensure common scientific and ethical guidelines for the reviewing, presentation and discussion of all conference contributions, the Scientific Committee collaborated with reviewers to develop and apply explicit *Reviewer Guidelines and Presentation Guidelines*. In the spirit of shared IACCP values of courtesy, professionalism, respect and care, all participants endorsed the conference *Code of Conduct* and committed to an inclusive conference experience for all.

The conference program was organized around thematic streams which covered all 13 conference themes, showcasing the rich diversity of scholarship within our IACCP community: from acculturation and cultural diversity, intercultural relations, prejudice and discrimination, over cultural clinical psychology and cross-cultural organizational psychology, to (cross)cultural social, developmental, cognitive and affective psychology and more, bridging qualitative and quantitative methods and epistemologies, and including critical, participatory and decolonial alongside more mainstream approaches.

The program was inclusive also in terms of the different ways in which new findings and knowledge, theory and practice, methods and approaches, discussions and reflection in our discipline were shared: supplementing 125 individual talks, 114 poster presentations, 52 regular and 13 invited symposia putting a spotlight on the 13 conference themes, the program included several ‘firsts’ in the history of IACCP conferences:

In addition to Zeynep Ayca’s panoramic presidential address and IACCP *Keynote Lectures* by Elena Piccinelli (Trandis Doctoral Thesis Award), Alex English (Kagitcibasi Early Career Award) and Teresa Lafromboise (Lonner Lecture), the program featured 12 keynote speakers in 4 *interdependent Duo Keynotes* by Hazel Markus and Maryam Hamedani, Ayse Uskul and Vivian Vignoles, and Catarina Montiel and Joshua Uyheng (online), 1 *Keynote Panel* with Yulia Chentsova-Dutton, and 1 individual *Keynote* by Karim Bettache (online).

Promoting more interactive formats, the program complemented 9 well-attended *Roundtable* discussions with 4 novel *Provocation sessions* around current controversies in (cross)cultural psychology. Other novelties were 40 *flash talks* accommodating speaking time for extended cross-cultural networks that do not fit into a regular symposium; and a *Science for Practice* day inviting practitioners to join for the day and highlighting applied advances in clinical, organizational and educational (cross)cultural psychology



* iaccp 2026

14-18 July 2026 | Leuven, Belgium

The congress was also a festive occasion for intergenerational togetherness, connecting cultural and cross-cultural psychologists across generations and at all career stages: from students to emeriti, with many first-timers joining longtime IACCP members and Honorary Fellows. The next generation of cultural and cross-cultural psychologists was well represented by 225 PhD student participants. Going by their contagious enthusiasm and connective engagement in the early career network event, and judging from the outstanding quality, refreshing originality and rich diversity of their contributions to the scientific program – as exemplified by the young winning team of the first IACCP conference Best Poster Award – the future of cross-cultural psychology and for our IACCP community looks bright indeed.

Last but not least, many participants braved the heatwave that hit Belgium during the conference week to join the rich social and cultural program. To name but a few most memorable activities: a decolonial tour of the Africa museum in recognition of the complicity of our university in the colonization of the Congo, a full-dinner welcome reception in the 710 year old University Hall, a concert of 16th century Flemish Renaissance polyphony in the 14-15th century church at the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Great Beguinage, a convivial culinary walking dinner in the yard of the adjacent Faculty Club and a dance party, and a day tour exploring the World Heritage medieval town of Bruges.

This conference would not have been possible without the generous support of the university and the IACCP, the members of the local organizing and scientific committees, and the many volunteers who reviewed, contributed, and helped out in so many ways. Hosting the conference has been a demanding yet rewarding task. We hope that the inspiring scientific ideas and exchanges at the conference may feed a sustained intercultural dialogue, create new collaborations, and bolster the IACCP as a global community of scholars in today's turbulent world.

To share memories of the IACCP 2026 conference, please go to <https://iaccp2026.com> and have a look at the conference pictures!



Call for Expressions of Interest to Host the 2028 IACCP International Congress (A reminder)

The International Congress is the flagship event of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP). It provides a unique opportunity for researchers, practitioners, educators, and students from around the world to come together to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and build lasting professional collaborations.

The success of every IACCP Congress depends on the commitment, creativity, and leadership of dedicated local organizing teams working in close partnership with the Association. We are therefore pleased to invite Expressions of Interest from institutions, national groups, regional networks, and members interested in hosting the **2028 IACCP International Congress**.

Organizing an international congress is both a significant responsibility and an exciting opportunity to showcase cross-cultural psychology within a host country and region while contributing to the continued growth and global reach of IACCP.

Timeline

- **Call for proposals:** August 2026
- **Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline:** 15 October 2026
- **Invitation to selected applicants to submit a full proposal:** 15 November 2026
- **Full proposal submission deadline:** 28 February 2027
- **Selection of host institution and organizing team:** 15 March 2027

Expression of Interest

Interested institutions and organizing groups are invited to submit an **Expression of Interest of approximately three pages outlining:**

- Host country, city, and institution(s)
- Name and contact information of the proposed Congress Chair
- Brief description of the organizing team
- Motivation for hosting the Congress
- Evidence of institutional support and organizational capacity
- Special strengths, opportunities, or distinctive features of the proposed location
- A brief statement regarding the feasibility of hosting an international congress of this scale

Applicants whose EOIs are shortlisted will be invited to submit a full proposal of approximately 30 pages.

Evaluation Criteria

In reviewing submissions, consideration will be given to:

- Institutional commitment and support
- Organizational capacity to host an event of this scale
- Accessibility and attractiveness of the proposed location
- Financial feasibility and sustainability
- Opportunities for broad international participation
- Potential for strengthening and promoting cross-cultural psychology in the host country and region
- Alignment with IACCP's values of diversity, inclusion, and global engagement
- Ease of travel and participation for members, including visa and other entry requirements

IACCP welcomes proposals from all regions of the world. We are particularly interested in encouraging proposals from regions that have historically been underrepresented among our Congress hosts, consistent with the Association's commitment to broad international participation and engagement.

Submission Information

Detailed guidelines for preparing a full proposal are available on the IACCP website:

<https://irp.cdn-website.com/862f9074/files/uploaded/IACCP-Conference-Proposal-as-MoU-2024-1.pdf>

Expressions of Interest should be submitted to:

Professor Wolfgang Friedlmeier

Secretary General, IACCP
friedlmw@gvsu.edu

We Look Forward to Hearing from You

The International Congress plays a vital role in the intellectual and professional life of our Association. We encourage members to discuss this opportunity within their institutions and professional networks and to consider whether their region may be ready to welcome the global IACCP community in 2028.

We look forward to receiving your Expressions of Interest and to exploring the exciting possibilities they will bring.

David L. Sam

President, IACCP



How Cultural Norms Shape Psychology: New Insights from Cultural Psychology

The symposium “How Cultural Norms Shape Psychology: New Insights from Cultural Psychology” was held at the Annual Convention of the Japanese Psychological Association (JPA), with support from the JPA and in collaboration with the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP). Organized by Igor de Almeida and Alexander Kirchner-Häusler (Kyoto University; both IACCP members), the symposium brought together researchers studying culture and psychology in Asian contexts and beyond to share recent research on how cultural norms shape diverse psychological processes.

Atsuki Ito (Osaka University) opened the symposium by revisiting the concept of assurance and its implications for interpersonal relationships. Pamela Taylor (Akita International University) then examined dispositional and cultural factors influencing interest in and willingness to eat aversive, non-normative foods. Sarmad Ali (Kyoto University) presented research on the contrasting effects of harmony seeking and rejection avoidance on self-censorship across relationships and cultural contexts. Yan Li (Kyoto University; IACCP member) followed with research comparing Japan and the United States that distinguished these two sides of interdependence—seeking harmony and avoiding rejection—and examined their different associations with well-being at work. Finally, Takechika Hayashi (Kyoto University; IACCP member) explored how cultural norms shape the psychology of religion.

The presentations were followed by discussion from Joonha Park (Kyoto University; IACCP member, East Asian representative) and Vinai Norasakkunkit (Gonzaga University). Park’s discussion, “Through the Prism of Culture: From Cultural Entities to Psychological Processes,” highlighted a common thread across the presentations: the importance of moving beyond treating cultures as homogeneous entities or simply comparing countries, and instead examining the psychological processes through which cultural norms shape people’s experiences and behavior. Norasakkunkit then provided thoughtful comments and questions on each presentation, further developing the issues raised by the speakers.

Together, the presentations and discussions demonstrated how seemingly similar psychological tendencies may reflect different motivations and have different consequences depending on their cultural and relational contexts. The symposium also provided an opportunity for researchers working across different cultural settings and research traditions to exchange perspectives on the study of culture and psychology. The collaboration between JPA and IACCP helped create a forum connecting research grounded in Asian cultural contexts with broader developments in cross-cultural and cultural psychology.





IACCP Travel Support Awards – Leuven, Belgium, 2025

As part of this summer's IACCP Conference in Leuven, Belgium, the IACCP was pleased to offer travel support through its Witkin-Okonji Memorial Fund to 20 members, with a total award of nearly 27,000 USD.

We received 59 applications by the April 3, 2026, deadline. A dedicated review committee, comprising the President-Elect, Treasurer, the Regional Representative for Europe, and one of the Conference Chairs, carefully evaluated each submission.

Award amounts ranged from \$290 to \$1,500, in addition to \$ 380 flat support for congress registration.

To celebrate those who made it, we invited awardees to share a few words about their experience.

Here's what some of them had to say:



Elizabeth Anorkor Abbey, University of Ghana, Ghana.

"One grant, one journey, countless possibilities. Thanks to the generous support of the Whitney Okonji Memorial Fund, I was able to share my research with the global scientific community, connect with inspiring researchers, and build collaborations that will extend beyond the conference. I am honoured that this journey culminated in receiving the Best Poster Award, a milestone that reflects the value of investing in emerging researchers. My gratitude to the Fund for believing in my potential and making this unforgettable opportunity possible."

Regards, Elizabeth.



Ece Akca. Ege University, Türkiye

Presenting my work in Leuven and getting reactions from researchers outside my usual circle was the most valuable part of the week for me. Several conversations over coffee turned into concrete suggestions for my next study, which is more than I expected from a few days. Hearing work on questions far from my own broadened my thinking and how I work, and I left the week feeling genuinely richer for it. Without the travel support, I would not have been able to attend, so thank you. I came home with a longer reading list.

Best wishes, Ece Akca Ege University, İzmir



Maria Baldova, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, United States of America

This was my first conference, and it was such a meaningful and memorable experience. From everything I learned during the sessions to the conversations and connections I made with people from around the world, it left a deep impression on me. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to be part of it, and especially thankful for the support I received that helped make this experience possible. I came back feeling inspired and excited to continue learning, growing, and hopefully having many more opportunities like this in the future. Thank you again for your support!

Maria



Zainab Shabbir, Clark University, United States of America

Thank again for the opportunity to attend the IACCP conference through the Witkin–Okonji Travel Support Award. Attending the conference in Leuven was a very meaningful experience. I enjoyed learning about inspiring research, presenting my own work, and connecting with scholars from different parts of the world. I especially appreciated the thoughtful feedback and the welcoming academic community.

Warm regards, Zainab



Munira Hoosain (left) & Mariam Salie (right), Stellenbosch University, South Africa

We attended our second IACCP congress this year, in Leuven, Belgium. While the flavour of the congress was very different to Bali 2024, this reflects the organising committee's diversity. We enjoyed the provocative and roundtable sessions, especially those centred on decoloniality and academics' responsibilities in times of war and genocide. Similarly to 2024, we were struck by how similar mental health experiences are across the globe in minoritised communities. We valued the opportunity to share our own work on Muslim mental health in South Africa, thereby contributing to the conversations about culture and mental health. We were rather disappointed at the lack of representation from Sub-Saharan Africa, but feel encouraged by the executive committee's acknowledgement of this limitation and plans to extend reach of the organisation. The congress was very well organised with excellent catering, that had multiple Muslim-friendly options, which we also appreciated. We look forward to further engagements with IACCP in future.

Munira Hoosain (Senior lecturer and PhD Scholar, Division of Occupational Therapy, Stellenbosch University, South Africa) and Mariam Salie (Lecturer and PhD Scholar, Department of Psychology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

Regards Munira and Mariam



Dinh-Hung "Kiki" Vu, University of Oslo, Norway

During just a few days at the conference, I was able to expand my cross-cultural research knowledge, get inspired with ideas for my own projects, and strengthen relationships that open doors to future collaborations. As someone especially interested in research methods, I was fascinated by the many opportunities to advance my understanding of cross-cultural methodology, particularly the sessions on measurement invariance. The idea that non-invariance can itself be an important source of information has given me new directions to think about, especially for synthesis work. Beyond the formal presentations, some of the most meaningful moments were the informal conversations over lunch and coffee about decolonising cross-cultural research and our responsibilities as researchers in the current global context. And, last but not least, the conference was a chance to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, opening doors to future possibilities and opportunities. I am truly grateful for this opportunity.

Again, thanks so much for giving me the support to join the conference!

Best wishes, Kiki



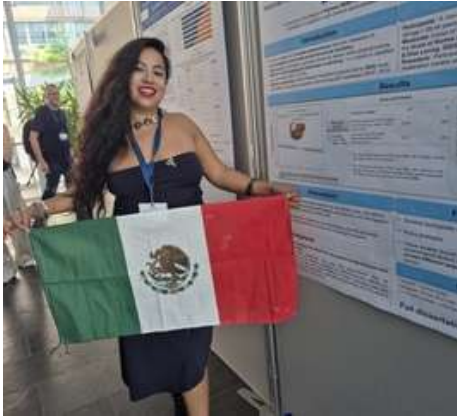
Patricia Silva, University of Beira Interior, Portugal.

"Attending the IACCP 2026 Congress was a deeply meaningful experience for me, especially because it was my first IACCP conference (and my first time in Belgium). What stayed with me most was the warm and welcoming atmosphere. From the beginning, I felt welcomed and included, which made the experience truly special.

As an early-career researcher, having the opportunity to hear scholars whose work has inspired me and to present my own research in such a supportive environment strengthened my commitment to more culturally responsive and community-based research. The conversations and connections I made throughout the Congress were just as valuable as the academic discussions.

I am sincerely grateful to the IACCP and the Witkin–Okonji Memorial Fund Award for making my participation possible. I returned from Leuven feeling inspired and very grateful for this experience."

Warm Regards, Patricia Silva University of Beira Interior, Portugal.



Valeria Valencia Galán, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

If I could describe my experience as a presenter at the XXVIII International Congress of the IACCP in just two words, they would be gratitude and mirrors. Gratitude for having been able to attend thanks to the Witkin-Okonji Memorial Fund Award, and because the IACCP considered that my work had a place at the most prestigious cross-cultural psychology congress on the planet. Mirrors because the congress allowed me to see myself through the eyes of other professionals in the field, to learn how they perceive my line of research, to present my work in English for the first time, and to feel part of the global dialogue within the discipline. Receiving the Witkin-Okonji reinforced my conviction that, as psychologists, we have a responsibility to continue contributing empirical evidence on the impact of socio-structural inequalities across cultures, as Herman Witkin and Michael Okonji advocated. I traveled more than 9,000 kilometers, took four flights and a train to reach Leuven. The geographical journey was long, but the real journey was inward.

Valeria Valencia Galán
Faculty of Psychology, National Autonomous University of Mexico



When Identity Becomes Triadic: Reflections from IACCP 2026 in Leuven

Othman H. Alkhadher
Kuwait University

The 2026 Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP) in Leuven was an intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding experience. It brought together scholars from different regions, cultures, and theoretical traditions in an atmosphere that encouraged both rigorous scientific exchange and genuine collegial interaction. One of the qualities I particularly appreciated was the openness of the discussions: research was not treated simply as a finished product to be presented, but as an invitation to dialogue, comparison, and further development.

For researchers interested in culture, identity, and organizational life, the conference provided an especially valuable opportunity to examine how psychological processes may change when individuals are located within different social and cultural configurations. I was pleased to contribute to this conversation by presenting our research titled “Triadic Identity Configurations and Observer Fairness Judgments of Race-, Ethnicity-, and Religion-Based Discriminatory Treatment.” The study was conducted with my colleagues Hesham Gadelrab, Mohammad Almeheed, Aysha Alkandari, and Nourah Alsafi.

The project began with a relatively simple question: When people observe discriminatory or procedurally unfair treatment at work, does their judgment depend only on what happened, or also on how their own identity relates to the identities of both the disadvantaged person and the authority responsible for the treatment?

Much of the existing literature on observers of discrimination has implicitly adopted a dyadic perspective. Researchers often ask whether the observer shares an identity with the victim or target. We believed this left out an important part of the social configuration: the identity of the decision-maker or authority figure. In real organizational settings, observers rarely evaluate a target in isolation. They are simultaneously positioned in relation to both the person being treated and the person exercising authority.

We therefore proposed a triadic perspective, focusing on the configuration among three actors: the observer, the disadvantaged candidate, and the manager. The central argument is that shared identity should not automatically be interpreted as simple ingroup favoritism. Instead, identity may operate as a context-sensitive influence on fairness judgments, depending on where the observer is located within the social triangle.

Across three vignette-based studies, we examined racial identity and ethnic identity in the United States and religious identity in the United Kingdom. Participants evaluated a hiring situation in which a manager treated a job candidate in a procedurally unfair manner. The procedural violation itself was held relatively constant, while the identities of the manager and candidate were systematically varied. The observer role was aligned with participants’ own self-reported identities. Procedural justice judgments were then used to assess how fairly observers evaluated the treatment they had witnessed.

Three types of identity configuration were especially important.

The first was complete ingroup homogeneity, in which the observer, candidate, and manager all belonged to the same identity group. The second was partial overlap, in which the observer shared identity with the disadvantaged candidate but not with the manager. The third involved gendered identity overlap, in which gender intersected with racial, ethnic, or religious identity.

The findings were not consistent with a simple model of automatic ingroup favoritism.

In the race study, observers who shared racial identity with the disadvantaged candidate, but not with the manager, judged the procedure significantly more critically than observers in the non-shared-identity condition. Under complete racial ingroup homogeneity, however, judgments were relatively similar.

The ethnicity study produced a different pattern. Simple ethnic overlap between observer and candidate was not sufficient to produce a significant change in procedural justice judgments. However, when ethnicity was combined with gender, the gendered ethnic-overlap conditions produced substantially more critical fairness evaluations.

Religion showed the strongest and most consistent identity effects. Religious identity remained relevant even under full ingroup homogeneity. Observers who shared religious identity with the disadvantaged candidate but not with the manager evaluated the treatment as less fair, and the Muslim-female overlap conditions produced still more critical evaluations.

Taken together, the studies suggest that identity matters configurationally rather than simply categorically. What appears important is not merely whether two individuals share an identity, but where the observer stands relative to both the disadvantaged target and the authority figure. Race, ethnicity, and religion also did not operate identically, reminding us that social identities carry different historical, cultural, and normative meanings.

One possible interpretation is what we describe as impartiality-signaling pressure. When observers share identity with a disadvantaged person, they may become concerned that a favorable judgment toward that person could itself be interpreted as ingroup favoritism. They may therefore apply particularly strict standards when evaluating the authority's conduct. At present, however, we regard this as one possible explanation rather than an established mechanism. Alternative explanations include discrimination-prototype matching, perceptions of bias, and greater psychological closeness to the disadvantaged target.

For cross-cultural psychology, I believe the broader implication is especially important. Identity categories should not be treated simply as demographic variables. They carry culturally situated meanings that influence how people understand authority, legitimacy, vulnerability, and moral obligation. The same formal procedural violation may therefore be interpreted differently depending on the social identities involved and the cultural meanings attached to them.

Presenting this research at IACCP 2026 was particularly valuable because the association provides a natural intellectual home for questions of this kind. The conversations surrounding the presentation reinforced for me the importance of moving beyond treating culture as a background variable and instead examining how cultural and social identities actively organize psychological judgment.

I left Leuven with renewed appreciation for IACCP as a community that connects researchers across societies while still encouraging us to take cultural specificity seriously. The congress was not only an opportunity to present findings, but also an opportunity to reconsider them through the perspectives of colleagues working in very different cultural contexts. That, in many ways, is one of the greatest strengths of IACCP.

Congratulations



Dr. Harleen Kaur, Assistant Professor at the Jindal School of Psychology and Counselling, O.P. Jindal Global University, India has been awarded with the prestigious Global LGBTQI+ Human Rights Fellowship at the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. The year-long fellowship brings together scholars working at the intersection of LGBTQI+ rights and human rights and provides opportunities for research, intellectual exchange, and engagement with global policy and advocacy. Dr. Kaur's fellowship will further her ongoing scholarship on gender, sexuality, identity, power, and structural inequalities, with a particular focus on transgender communities in India, while providing a platform to bring perspectives from the Global South into broader conversations on LGBTQI+ human rights and social justice.

Publication-

Kaur, H. A Foucauldian Analysis of "Alternative Family" Among Indian Trans Women. *Gend. Issues* 43, 38 (2026).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12147-026-09426-7>

MEMBERSHIP

Renew your IACCP Membership Or Become A Member Today!

Your support is invaluable to the IACCP's mission of fostering collaboration and understanding in cross-cultural psychology. We appreciate your commitment to our community and eagerly anticipate another year of shared knowledge and discovery.

Renewing your membership or becoming a member ensures uninterrupted access to a myriad of resources, networking opportunities, and a platform to engage in enriching conversations with like-minded professionals. It also contributes to the growth and global impact of culture and psychology.

We are keen to keep the membership fees at a reasonable rate, ranging from \$10 to \$ 85, depending on the income level and status (student vs. professional).

Most of the following are for members only. While others are open to everyone, members benefit from receiving information in a timely fashion. Here are some membership benefits for your consideration.

- Free access to online Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology.
- IACCP Bulletin.
- Reduced congress and conference registration fees.
- Access to the IACCP Member Directory.
- Small research grants ([see here](#)).
- Travel support to congresses and conferences ([see here](#)).
- Research webinars ([see here](#)).
- Culture & Psychology PhD Summer School ([see here](#)).
- Tilburg University Cross-Cultural Research Workshops ([see here](#)).
- Triandis Award for outstanding dissertations ([see here](#)).
- Online Readings in Psychology and Culture (ORPC) ([see here](#)).
- Participation in the IACCP discussion list.
- Publishing in congress books.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

[RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

MEMBERSHIP

How to become a member

To become a member please visit our

IACCP PAGE

OR

contact one of the

REPRESENTATIVES

MENA region

Michael Weinstock, Ben Gurion University, Israel micwein@bgu.ac.il

Mustapha Achoui, Arab Open University, Kuwait, Mustafait@hotmail.com

Asia

Shagufa Kapadia (South Asia), The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda - India, shagufa@gmail.com

Joonha Park (East Asia), Kyoto University, Japan, park.joonha.6n@kyoto-u.ac.jp

Ayu Okvitawanli (Southeast Asia), Indonesia, ayuokvitawanli@ub.ac.id

Insular Pacific

Takeshi Hamamura, Curtin University, Perth, Australia

takeshi.hamamura@curtin.edu.au

North America and Canada

Jessica McKenzie (North America), Fresno State University, USA, jmckenzie@csufresno.edu

Raquel Hoersting (Canada), University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, rhoersting@upei.ca

Europe

Christin-Melanie Vauclair, Lisbon University Institute, Portugal, melanie.vauclair@gmail.com

Lusine Grigoryan, University of York, UK, lusine.grigoryan@york.ac.uk

Central and Southern Africa

Symen Brouwers, South Africa, symenbrouwers@gmail.com

Casey Botha, South Africa, casey.botha@gmail.com

South America

Claudio Torres, University of Brasilia, Brazil, claudio.v.torres@gmail.com

Mabel Osnaya-Moreno (Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean), Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, México, Mexico, mosnaya@yahoo.com

Plamen Akaliyski, Special Representative - Early Career, Hong Kong, akaliyski.plamen@gmail.com

About the Bulletin Editor

Liliyana Mbeve, MSc, MA, is a PhD researcher at the Psychology Department at the University of Limerick, Ireland. She earned her MSc degree in social and cultural psychology pursuing an international master program Global-Minds from the SWSP (Poland), Koc University (Turkey), University of Limerick (Ireland) Liliyana's PhD research is dedicated to uncovering effects of identification strategies on well-being and social inclusion among professionals in multinational companies in Ireland. Originally from Belarus, Liliyana has resided in Ireland for more than 5 years, dedicated to pursuing her academic career.



Liliyana Mbeve, MSc, MA
University of Limerick,
Lijambeve@gmail.com

Rachana Bhangaokar, PhD, is Chair, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India. Her research interests include cultural and indigenous psychology, particularly moral and social development and experiences of transformative selfhood in India. She has completed projects on traditional and modern food preferences, work-life balance and civic engagement. She is open to cross-cultural collaborations for research and online teaching engagements.



Rachana Bhangaokar, PhD
Chair,
IACCP - Communications and
Publications Committee
rachana.bhangaokar@gmail.com