

International Association for Counselling's Counselling Practitioners' Round Table *"Sharing practice around the world"*



Counselling Practitioners' Round Table April 7, 2018 Session Report

The following report highlights the proceedings of the April 2018 Counselling Practitioners' Round Table (CPRT) for the International Association for Counselling (IAC), which met online on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 7:30-9:00am (Chicago/ USA time). The round table discussion proceeded online through the Skype Business application.

The Round Table aims:

To provide a forum within the International Community of Counsellors for practitioners to share and discuss matters arising from their practice for celebration or concern; create mutual support and encouragement across International and multi-cultural contexts around the world using video conference, webinar, Skype, e-mail and text, designed to combat isolation; and to address the wider professional and research community with matters of interest or concern.

Meeting Overview

- Reviewed CPRT role within IAC
- Ways to get involved through IAC:
 - [Membership](#)
 - [Certification](#)
 - [Round Tables](#)
- CPRT Participant Check-ins
- 2018 IAC Conference in Rome, Italy
- Reviewed follow-up items from previous [CPRT Meeting notes](#)
- CPRT Recommendations and Follow-up Items
- Current issues in counseling
- Next CPRT Meeting on July 14, 2018

CPRT Participant Check-ins

Seven members participated in the April CPRT meeting. Those present included the following (in English alphabetical order by last name):

- **Dr. Beatriz Brinckman:** Beatriz lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but is frequently traveling throughout Latin America visiting grandchildren and speaking on counseling. Beatriz has been involved with IAC for many years, and served as a past Vice President of IAC, and as President of the Argentina Counseling Association.



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- **Dr. Sandy Kakacek:** Sandy is currently the Director of Training with a mental health and rehabilitation counseling program at Adler University in Chicago, USA. Sandy practices as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) with practice in an office and a stable (equine therapy). She is currently the President of Illinois Counseling Association, on ACA's international committee with a goal to create a bridge to international counseling; Sandy is also on the task force for licensing portability across the USA. Sandy has led students on cross-cultural trips to engage with people in clinical sites, most recently in Costa Rica.
- **Dr. Elisabeth Leembruggen:** Although a citizen of The Netherlands, she recently began living in Malta, where she now has her license to counsel (she is also a British Certified Psychologist). Elisabeth is also doing some work with IAC in Malta, and providing continuing education; she has taught with Wesley University in The Netherlands. Special interests are with migrant women. She was born in Sri Lanka, but has traveled extensively, obtaining her doctorate from Boston University, where she researched identity formation.
- **Dr. Jabulani Allen Muchado:** Jabu is a Counsellor Educator in the Department of Educational Foundations at the University of Botswana. He continues to teach and speak on counseling practice and education throughout Botswana. He has been involved advancing counselor accreditation and linsecure in Botswana. Jabu is a practicing Professional Counsellor, a founding member and the first President of the Botswana Counselling Association, and is a member of several other counseling organizations. He has been a member of International Association for Counselling's Counselling Practitioners' Round Table (CPRT) for many years.
- **Ms. Sudha Nagarajan:** Sudha is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a small private practice in New Jersey, USA. She also is currently a doctoral candidate with Montclair State University, where she is conducting research on Indian women who come on non-immigrant visas. She hopes to defend her dissertation in a few months.
- **Dr. Nate Perron:** Nate is a clinical assistant professor with Northwestern University's Counseling@Northwestern online Masters in counseling program in Chicago area, USA. Nate practices as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) with a private practice where he sees individuals, couples, families, and children. Nate has ongoing research interest with international counseling. His dissertation was focused on international counseling traits, and he is currently involved in a study on international counseling values. Nate serves on the Executive Committee of IAC, and is the Chair of the Counselling Practitioners' Round Table and Chair of the Scientific Committee for the 2018 IAC Conference in Rome.

2018 IAC Conference in Rome, Italy

The conference was not discussed in much detail at this particular meeting, other than mentioning that the conference registration is still open for 2018 IAC Conference in Rome, Italy. Proposals are no longer being accepted.

- **Conference theme:** The CPRT discussed the theme of the conference, "Counselling Issues and Processes Across Ages and Cultures."



- **CPRT Plenary Session:** Participants volunteered to present on the CPRT plenary session at the previous January CPRT meeting. The following participants agreed to present as panellists at the conference with the following related topics:
 - **Beatriz Brinckmann:** mental health support for the elderly
 - **Anita Jones:** willingness to share on her specialty in trauma. interested in discussing actual round tables where people who want to discuss issues, but also provide information; overall discussion of trauma
 - **Sudha Nagarajan:** remote caregiving for parents living in other cultures
 - **Victoria Babini:** issues moving to the US and struggling with different culture; related studies with African refugees in the US
 - **John Prysor-Jones:** gender equality and women's empowerment; current focus on the inappropriate behavior by men and how it has impacted the world
 - **Sandy Kakacek:** prevalent issues with fear of having to be taken away from their families in immigrant or refugee situations

Reviewing Previous Follow-up Items

- **Increasing representation on the CPRT across the regions**
 - The group discussed exploring opportunities to recruit individuals by inviting colleagues to become interested
 - The group discussed ways that IAC could create more visibility:
 - The CPRT discussed having IAC meetings or receptions at regional conferences, such as ACA or otherwise. This could begin at the upcoming ACA conference in Atlanta, USA.
 - Explore the potential for IAC to offer the MHF training through NBCC-I as a pre-conference for the 2019 IAC conference. Nate could provide this training as an MHF Master trainer.
 - Continue to participate in other international counseling venues and discuss IAC further in these settings. The International Counseling Interest Network (ICIN) was described as a helpful place to begin.
 - Members can continue to bring more attention to other associations, as Sandy mentioned one of the goals of the ACA international committee is to branch out
- **Current research activities:**
 - Beatriz reported the upcoming research occurring through IAC to map local and regional associations; she also shared about another study with an Executive Council member exploring the integration of different cultures on immigration
 - Nate described a current qualitative research study exploring the phenomenon of how counseling values intersect with cultural values across the eight regions represented at IAC.

Current topics in counseling

- Refugee/ Immigrant populations: There seems to be increased attention on social justice issues for those who are immigrants fearing deportation



- Participants discussed clinical services being offered regarding immigrant populations
- Counseling issues in The Netherlands are highlighting the need to recognize the resentment among people angry about the economic impact of refugees. There was discussion related to how counselors must be prepared to support both the refugee population, and those that are upset with their presence in the country.
- Discussion related to how counselors can be involved in advocacy for supporting the needs of people from any perspective, refugee or not. Political issues continue to impact the need and support for counseling in general.

CPRT Recommendations & Follow-up Items

- The CPRT concluded on recommendations for the Executive Council to consider ways to facilitate IAC meetings at regional conferences. Because several participants are attending the ACA conference in Atlanta, Georgia, USA in April 2018, there will be efforts to setup a time to meet. Future receptions or meetings could be established in order to facilitate increased activity and visibility. The CPRT would be willing to start piloting some meetings at upcoming conferences.
- The CPRT recommended that the Executive Council consider having training, certification, or registration opportunities for pre-conference workshops in future IAC meetings. Nate offered the possibility to offer the training for Mental Health Facilitator(MHF) trainers through the National Board for Certified Counselors-International (NBCC-I).

Next meeting

Next CPRT meeting reviewed the calendar and decided to meet next for 90 minutes on **July 14, 2018** as reflected in the following time table (depending on your time zone):

 Vancouver , Canada	Saturday 5:30am
 Chicago , IL, USA	Saturday 7:30am
 Buenos Aires , Argentina	Saturday 10:30am
 Rome , Italy	Saturday 2:30pm
 Gaborone , Botswana	Saturday 3:30pm
 Istanbul , Turkey	Saturday 5:30pm
 Thimphu , Bhutan	Saturday 7:30pm
 Kuala Lumpur , Malaysia	Saturday 9:30pm
 Christchurch , New Zealand*	Sunday 2:30am

Please note that this list serves as an example of time zones for comparison; we realize all time zones cannot be represented in this short document.

Please go to the [World Clock Time Zone Converter](#) to find your specific time zone.



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