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IAC E-Newsletter



International Association for Counselling

June 2018

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President's Greeting



Dr Dione Mifsud, IAC President

Dear Members,

Welcome to the June 2018 IAC E-Newsletter and I hope you enjoy reading it. During 2018, we have been delighted to welcome new members and, in particular, to develop our major [World Mapping](#) of counselling project. The pilot region, Latin America, has been completed and is under review. This extensive piece of research was carried out with the support and partnership of the American Counseling Association (ACA).

We are expecting record numbers of International and Italian participants at our 2018 IAC annual conference, which will take place in September, in Rome, Italy. We have a wonderful line-up of speakers and hope that you will be able to join us.

Other highlights of this E-newsletter include counselling training in India, reflections on the emotional changes that take place when moving from childhood to young adulthood, and notices about events and research that we hope you find useful.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr Dione Mifsud.

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IAC WEBINAR – Last Chance to Register

IAC Webinar Series Presents: “Multicultural Counselling: A Global Perspective”

Presenters: **Anna Maria Mora** and **Beatriz Brinckmann**



When: **2:00 PM (Eastern Time) 25th June, 2018**

Cost: **Free for IAC Members ([see IAC Membership](#))**
\$35 (Canadian Dollars) for non-IAC members

For More Information [Click Here](#) To Register [Click Here](#)

NOTICE OF A GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear IAC Member,

Notice is given that you are invited to attend a General Assembly of IAC to be held on **Sunday 23rd September 2018 at 5:30pm** at the [SHG Hotel Antonella](#) following the 52nd annual IAC Conference. The Agenda and supporting documents will be sent out to you prior to the meeting.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr. John Prysor-Jones
Secretary, IAC.



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2018 IAC Conference – Rome ITALY



The global community of counselling will come together in beautiful Rome, Italy, from the **22nd-23rd September 2018**. The 2018 conference programme will contain an exceptional line-up of Keynote speakers, Presenters, Panel Discussions, Posters and Social Activity. Please see information on the 2018 IAC International Counselling Conference below:

Conference Theme: "Counselling Issues and Processes Across Ages and Cultures"

Conference Location: Pomezia, Rome, Italy

Conference Dates: 22-23 September 2018



All Registrations are completed through the conference website: www.counselingevents.it

Conference Venue: [SHG HOTEL ANTONELLA](http://www.shghotelantonella.com), Pomezia (RM).

Booking Accommodation: All participants are responsible for all aspects of their own travel arrangements and accommodation. The conference Hotel, [SHG HOTEL ANTONELLA](http://www.shghotelantonella.com), is offering a discount for conference attendees. Quote - Booking Code: **IAC2018**. Also, accommodation is available at the [HOTEL SIMON](http://www.hotel-simon.com) - to book, please email: info@simonhotelpomezia.it

- Double room/single use: €70 (breakfast included)
- Double room: €80 (breakfast included)
- City tax: €2 per day

Free Shuttles are offered from Pomezia Train Station to the Hotels. When booking, please indicate your arrival time at the Train Station. Please email: info@shghotelantonella.com highlighting that you will be attending the IAC conference 2018, 22-23 September. Please proceed with your booking as soon as possible.



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2018 IAC Conference – Rome ITALY

Further Conference Information

Conference Theme: "Counselling Issues and Processes Across Ages and Cultures"

Conference Sub-Themes:

- Multidisciplinary lenses in the counselling profession
- Evolution of inter-professional collaboration
- Counselling practice: issues and challenges in different cultural contexts
- Counselling research and services across the life span
- Counselling research and services for disadvantaged populations
- Gender equality and women's empowerment: counselling research and services



PARTICIPATION IS RELEVANT TO: Counsellors, Psychotherapists, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, General Practitioners, Social Workers, Coaches, Trainers, Educators, Students, Researchers, Mental Health and Educational Professionals

VISAS: Please note that participants are wholly responsible for securing their own visas where required. To facilitate the process, IAC will issue letters of invitation--where requested--once detailed information has been supplied to IAC by the applicant. For Italian visa information, please follow the link: <http://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/home/en>

CERTIFICATES: Certificates will be emailed to conference participants following the conference.

LANGUAGES: The Conference will be conducted in English with translation in Italian/English or English/Italian.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: All social events and Gala Dinner details coming soon.

WEATHER: In September, the temperature in Rome is generally mild and temperate. In general, the days are quite warm and reach 24°-26° C. The nights are mild (15°-16° C).

If you have any queries relating to the conference or conference sponsorship please contact us.



**Come and Join Us
We Look Forward to Seeing You
in Beautiful Rome!**

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Counsellor Training in Muttom Tamil Nadu India

By Ruth Falzon and Dione Mifsud

For the third time, the Department of Counselling (DoC) within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta has been involved in a project supported by Rotary International La Valette Malta, in Tamil Nadu. The aim of the project is to raise awareness with educators and other helping professionals on how to use communication and helping skills to address students with Specific Learning Difficulties/Learning Disabilities (SpLD/LD).



The Co-ordinator himself, Rotarian Mr Edward Fenech, is an adult with dyslexia and his negative school experience has led him to raise awareness of dyslexia in Tamil Nadu for the last seven years on his own; and for the last three years in collaboration with the DoC. In April 2015, the DoC sent its research officer to join Mr Edward Fenech; in April 2016, three academics joined this venture, namely Dr Marlene Cauchi, Dr Ruth Falzon and Dr Dione Mifsud; and in November 2017, Dr Falzon and Dr Mifsud joined Mr Fenech. The team always stays in a boys' residence which had been built by Rotary International La Valette and is run by the local Catholic Church. This boys' residence houses boys, who live far from any school, to enable them to get an education in Muttom. There is also a girls' residence house run by nuns.

When planning the programmes, the DoC wanted to take on a transdisciplinary approach for a number of reasons: its philosophical standpoint; the expertise profile of the DoC; the focus that the project co-ordinator wanted; the parameters of the training; the audiences; and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing's mission on wellbeing and Quality of Life. This translated into addressing SpLD/LD within the context of helping skills.

The training seminars were held with professionals in education or with trainee professionals studying to become teachers. Training sessions were held at post-secondary colleges that focus on teachers' education, at universities or actual schools with professionals. Given that these were one- to two-day conferences, the team was conscious that the content had to focus on the classroom experience rather than teaching literacy, math or any subject specifically.



A Ceremony at the Conference

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Counsellor Training in Muttom Tamil Nadu India

The training therefore focused on the importance of communication and understanding and that this would then lead to empathy, appropriate helping skills and inclusive techniques and strategies to access curricula. Training sessions always started with an auto-ethnographic narrative from Mr Edward Fenech and this formed the basis of the rest of the training. Building on knowledge on SpLD/LD and the challenges that such profiles bring along, the team addressed how such knowledge can be used to understand and respect students to ensure a more inclusive learning environment. They also pointed out that one needs to start with the correct attitude and with the appropriate inclusive philosophy, such as the notion suggested by Thomas Jefferson: that the most unjust way to treat people is to treat people who are, by definition of their diversity, unequal, equally.

It was also important for the team to be respectful of the audience culture and school reality. Given that India, like Malta, was once a British colony, there are a lot of similarities between the Indian and Maltese educational systems and experience. The team could tap into these similarities to be able to share experiences rather than advise or prescribe. The team felt very humbled at the way it was received wherever it went and looks forward to future collaboration through Mr Edward Fenech.

The team also had the opportunity to meet counsellors working in schools and universities and of course used the opportunity to promote IAC and the importance of working together as a global community of counsellors. During training, the important role of helping Professionals work together with teachers was emphasised as well.

The DoC has supported the travelling costs of this project for the last three years. It is now concerned as it would be difficult to continue to support these travelling costs and is presently seeking ways to get These trips sponsored.



**Dr Ruth Falzon and Dr Dione Mifsud
with seminar participants**





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Culture Nurtures Conscience

By Anna Maria Mora

“Young people today have no conscience.” Many adults make this statement over and over as they criticize and alienate our young people more and more. Young people need guidance, they need “an ear with a heart” to assist them to manoeuvre this maze that is Life. Adults have forgotten the difficulty and confusion that accompany the physical and emotional changes which young people experience as they move from childhood into young adulthood. Added to this, we ask the question: What does the environment into which they are born teach them? Children are born into a way of life. This is Culture, the way of life of a people: what they eat, how they speak, how they dress, how they behave, their values, attitudes and beliefs. This way of life is prescribed for them from birth. This Culture nurtures Conscience. If we say that our children have no conscience, it means that the Culture into which they are born is not providing them with the “positive prescriptions” or the “prohibitions” they need to nurture their sense of what needs to be done to maintain order in their lives and in society. Freud was very clear about this, and I agree with him. Conscience is defined as the ability to review one’s conduct, motives or character or to develop and improve the mind through education and training. When the conscience is nurtured, another definition of culture emerges. This definition speaks to the quality of a person or society. Today, we now have subcultures: the drug culture, the gun culture, carnival culture, corporate culture, the culture of diversity, and popular culture, all part of the macro-culture. Our children must have the tools which will assist them to make wise choices for their future and become productive and caring citizens. Many, who find themselves in “trouble” at school or with the law, have to wait six months to one year to receive the psychological or psycho-educational assessment from student support services. Parents need to understand what is preventing children from being the best that they can be. The cost of doing these assessments privately is way beyond what many parents can afford. There is also an adult mind-set that continues to feed the attitude of our society which exonerates adults from accepting responsibility for children’s behaviour. Adults say: “We make children, but we do not make their minds.” They refuse to accept that if our children have “no conscience” it is because adults who have the responsibility for creating the nurturing environment in which children will thrive and become mentally healthy, are not living up to their responsibility.



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We know what we need to do to “fertilize” the earth and grow healthy vegetables, fruit and meat to provide us with nutritious, healthy meals that help us to be physically strong, but we do not know what we need to do to “grow” mentally–healthy children, who develop strength of character and provide our society with a solid foundation for future development. There are tried and true approaches that can be used. Adults must be open, empathic, read about, or take a class in, Parenting. This is also why Governments must take on IAC’s vision and help to create “a world where counselling is available for all.”



2018/19 Counselling Events and Conferences

Upcoming Conferences:

September: [International Association for Counselling](#) Annual Conference, **22nd - 23rd Sept, 2018**, Rome, Italy.

October: [International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance](#) (IAEVG) Conference, **2-4, October, 2018**, Gothenburg, Sweden.

November: [Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations'](#) Conference, **12-16 November, 2018**, Kingston, Jamaica.

November: DGFB (German Association for Counselling), EAC, & University of Cologne. [Counselling Conference Cologne. Resource Orientation & Peer Support](#). **22th-24th November 2018**, University of Cologne, Germany

2019 (Feb): [Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference](#), **19-22 February, 2019**, UNHCO, New Orleans, USA.

2019 (March): [ACA 2019 CONFERENCE AND EXPO](#), New Orleans, Louisiana: **March 27 – 31, 2019**

2019 (May): [CCPA / IAC 2019 Conference](#), **May 13 – 16, 2019**, at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel in Moncton, NB, Canada.

2019 (May): [BACP Annual Research Conference 2019](#). 17 and 18 May 2019. Belfast, Northern Ireland.

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Seeking International Counselling Research Participants



Dr. Nate Perron,
Chairperson.

IAC Practitioner's Round-Table



Dr. Nate Perron is inviting participation in his research study **“Enhancing cultural intentionality in counseling practice: A qualitative inquiry into counseling values as they are experienced among a variety of cultural contexts”** (Northwestern University study #STU00207061). The purpose of this qualitative study is to take a phenomenological approach to understanding how counseling professional values are experienced in different cultures by counseling professionals connected through international counseling associations. The study will consist of one 60-minute interview through an online video platform. Details for logging into the system will be provided when interviews are scheduled.

The goal of this study is to have a diverse population of counseling professionals that represent the various regions recognized officially by the International Association for Counselling (IAC). If you would like to learn more about participation, please contact Dr. Perron by e-mailing nate.perron@northwestern.edu, or by calling +1 (847)733-4300 x646.

Malta: Counselling Warranting Ceremony

On the 25th of May 2018, Malta's President issued the first counselling warrants. This was an historic day for counselling in Malta and Europe. The Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity, in collaboration with the Council for the Counselling Profession in Malta, hosted this landmark occasion which saw Counselling take its lawful place as a fully warranted profession. IAC wishes to congratulate all those who worked so hard for the richly deserved recognition of their work.



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a world of caring people

Cybercounselling Online, Level 1

July 6th – September 27th, 2018

This course is for experienced counselling practitioners who want to offer professional, ethical online counselling to their clients. We cover video, live text-chat and email-style communications methods. You will engage in hands-on text-based work with both asynchronous (e.g., secure email) and synchronous (e.g., chat) approaches.

Fits into your schedule*

three 4-week modules (12 weeks total)
completely online
most assignments are asynchronous

Certificates of completion are issued by
Work and Worldwide Therapy Online

*The course requires a time commitment of 5 to 7 hours per week. There are weekly homework deadlines.

Intensive learning

low student/instructor ratio
continual discussion with peers; a forum to practise online communication skills
includes personal clinical feedback from instructor

Topic sampler

compensate for lack of non-verbal cues
ethical issues in video counselling
text-based communication and counselling skills

"I was an admitted sceptic about the ability of online counselling to truly work with our clients but now feel it will be a great added resource to the services we provide."

"I will continue to practice my cybercounselling techniques. I did learn a strong foundation to begin to practice online therapy with clients."

"I enjoyed everything about this course."

Registration

Regular fees: \$1287 Canadian. IAC **members 10% discount:**

\$1158.30 plus taxes

Fees may be paid in full or in 3 installments of \$386.10.

Register online at:

<http://therapyonline.ca/cybercounselling/course-desc-L1.asp>

ALSO AVAILABLE!

LICENSE YOUR OWN CYBERCOUNSELLING WEBSITE

Questions? Contact Lawrence Murphy (519) 831-9141 or research@sympatico.ca.

Instructors:

Lawrence Murphy, MA



Mary MacDougall, MSW



Paul Parnass, MSW, RSW



Sue Allen, BSW, RSW





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EDUCATION ADVOCACY MEMBERSHIP

CERTIFICATION PARTNERSHIP

UNITED NATIONS CONSULTATIVE STATUS

Edited by: Naoise Kelly

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