



## Nominations for IAC Executive Council Positions – May 2019



**Bill Borgen**

### **Candidate for IAC President**

Since its inception in 1966 the International Association for Counselling has been a key international catalyst in the development and enhancement of contextually and culturally relevant counselling research, education and services around the world. I have been involved in a leadership capacity with IAC since 1990, and was President from 1998 to 2006. Over that time there has been continuity in the mission and objectives of the association, and an ongoing evolution and how our work is accomplished that has been heavily influenced by rapidly developing and increasingly accessible technologies. Over the past six years a number of initiatives have enhanced the profile and reach of the association. These include the creation of round tables on relevant issues and populations, regional representation of members of the Executive Council, more direct links with national and regional counselling associations, the appointment of a CEO, the strengthening of connections with UNESCO and the World Health Organization, more flexible ways to become a member, and the world mapping project.

I believe that IAC is poised to move forward with increased engagement by counsellor educators, researchers, educational institutions, national and regional associations, government and United Nations agencies, and individual members from around the world. Increased use of digital technology and social media, along with ongoing in person exchanges, and increasing levels of infrastructure support for our regional representatives, will strengthen the funding base of association and enhance IAC's ability to engage in its core mandate of promoting and advancing the creation and re-development of counselling research, education, and practice globally. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the Association in building on and extending the initiatives that have been undertaken, and in moving forward with new endeavors to enhance the profession of counselling.



**Blythe Shepard**

### **Candidate for IAC Treasurer**

I am a Canadian of British and Indigenous (Mohawk) ancestry. I obtained my PhD in 2002 in Educational Psychology with a speciality in counselling psychology from the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Currently I am a full professor in counselling psychology at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta. I am an active member of the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) and have gained the experience and expertise necessary to promote the profession and its contribution to the mental health and well-being of all. My experience within **CCPA** includes: four years as a national Board member, six years as an Executive Committee member (**four years as National Treasurer**), four years as Chair of the Certification Committee, and three years as co-chair of the Inter-Provincial Mobility for the Counselling Profession project. I have been very involved in the regulation of the counselling/psychotherapy in Canada: as a member of the BC Task Group for the Regulation of Counselling and a co-developer of the entry to practice competencies for the profession (2006) and the revised edition (2016); as President of the Counsellor Educators and Supervisors Chapter (2018-2019) and a member of the The Federation of Associations for Counselling Therapists in BC (FACTBC). Recognizing that clinical supervision is an essential component of ongoing

professional development, I have been instrumental in creating the national Canadian Certified Counsellor-Supervisor Certificate (CCC-S); in developing and instructing a graduate course in supervision sponsored by CCPA; in co-authoring *Supervision of Counselling and Psychotherapy: A handbook for Canadian Certified Supervisors and Applicants*; co-editing the textbook, *Supervision of the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Profession*; and co-editing the newly revised *Canadian Counseling and Psychotherapy Experience: Ethics-Based Issues and Cases* and the revised *CCPA Standards of Practice*. I currently the IAC Treasurer and I also chair the IAC Indigenous Roundtable. Promoting the profession of counselling/psychotherapy has been my life focus for many years in Canada and I am excited to continue to engage in international initiatives headed by the International Association for Counselling.



**Nate Perron**

**Candidate for IAC Secretary**

I gratefully accept the generous nomination to stand for office as the next Secretary of the International Association for Counselling (IAC). I hope to serve in this way because IAC aligns with my own ambitions and hopes for advancing the counseling profession throughout the world. I have been increasingly involved with the work of IAC since 2013, and I look forward to ongoing participation. My qualifications for the office may be observed in the various roles I have served through IAC. I have served as a Member at Large with the Executive Council since 2018, and I was Chair of the Counselling Practitioners' Round Table since 2016. I have also been involved with other responsibilities including Chair of the 2018 Scientific Committee, Program Certification Reviewer, and Editorial Reviewer for the IAC journal, *International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling (IJAC)*. These roles required extensive organization and careful communication between members of the association, the committee members, and the Executive Council. As Chair of the CPRT, I have been intentional with keeping careful notes for minutes distribution. I currently work as a core faculty member of Northwestern University's Master of Arts in Counseling Program, [Counseling@Northwestern](mailto:Counseling@Northwestern) since 2015. I have been counseling professionally since 2005, and I still maintain a part-time private practice. Advancing the work of IAC remains a key priority for me, including the current mapping project, and development of the program certification services. It would be a pleasure to advance IAC further, and I hope to explore options for increased collaboration between counseling associations, organizations, and individuals with partnerships and mutual endeavors to advance counseling. I also hope to see the Round Tables advance further and bring various interests together globally. Thank you for considering my nomination to stand for election.



**Anasuya Jegathevi Jegathesan**

**Candidate for Regional Member - Asia**

I am interested in being involved in ICA for the next term. The main reason for interest is that the 2020 conference will be held in Asia and it is likely that we may be able to garner a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in elevating the standards of counselling and Therapy in the Asian region as the Conference would now be affordable to more counsellors in Asian. I am also very interested as to have discussions on how to expand the therapeutic modality in an ethical and practical manner to ensure the industry is viable and taken seriously by individuals and peers, locally and globally. I appreciate the opportunity to put in the application and I thank you for the support.



## **Anna Maria Mora**

### **Candidate for Regional Member - Caribbean**

**Why Standing for Office?** I believe in IAC's vision: "A world where counselling is available to all." In the Caribbean Region, we are still 'suffering' from the remnants of colonialism. The education system has been and is still a very punitive one. Education Policy encourages schools to run smoothly. Any child who "gives trouble" is either expelled or suspended over and over again, and counselling is not an option. After my intense training and internship at Teachers College, Columbia University, I believe that counselling works and must be available to all in the Caribbean.

**Qualifications for Office** My involvement with IAC in the past year and a half as "interim" Regional Member assisted me to understand the intricacies of networking. A colleague said: 'We hold up the mirror for them and when they look in the mirror, they do not like what they see.' Counselling Services and Counsellors in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean are still treated with a 'hands-off' approach. Along with my professional training, my years in the field have afforded me the opportunity to understand what needs to be done in order to fulfill the responsibilities/tasks outlined in the IAC Role Description.

**Advancing the Work of IAC** I must focus on 'Outreach.' The Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations (CANPA) has a membership of 14 Associations. Membership focuses on Psychologists. In the Caribbean there is still this issue of "status." The word "Psychologist" has more "weight" than the word "counsellor." Counselling professionals employed in our schools and government agencies is a group through which I can encourage membership. Through networking, I will have the opportunity to encourage a regional network and the Caribbean regional mapping and monitoring project. The other tasks outlined will emerge smoothly from this focus on Outreach.



## **Di Stow**

### **Candidate for Regional Member – Oceania**

I am standing for office because I believe counselling should hold a place on the international stage for the greater good of the world's people — their health and well-being. As a private practitioner, a counsellor working particularly with grief and loss, in Oceania, I can make a big contribution; make a big difference. As national President of PACFA — the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia, I am especially well-placed to contribute to IAC. I am working in the profession privately, and professionally through my national association, and I am across a wide range of counselling matters.

I have been on the PACFA Board for over eight years now, serving as a general Board member with the specific responsibility of Conference Convenor, Secretary, Vice President, and now President. I believe the work of IAC can be best progressed through ongoing attention to research, training standards, accreditation, continuing professional development, and ethics: And specifically progressed by connecting groups and associations in areas of the world where counselling is more developed with those in areas of the world where they are starting. Indeed, the work of IAC offers considerable opportunities to be relational and connect with colleagues across so many countries, to listen and support each other, to work together to develop creative ideas for advancing the organisation.



## **Desiree Carlson**

### **Candidate for Regional Member – Latin America**

I would like to express my enthusiasm in applying for the position of Regional Representative for Latin America at IAC Executive Council. I have been a member of IAC for over a year but for over the past eleven years I have been fully dedicated to counseling and therapy in Mexico representing my country in several international mental health events as well as developing and implementing counseling personalized programs for schools, companies and government. The counseling profession in Mexico is not totally known, understood and developed and there is a lot of confusion between its goals and those of coaching, orientation, mentoring and therapy. Therefore, I would like to contribute to its development in Latin Countries so that the possibilities that counseling can bring to people, spread as far as they can through commitment, knowledge and networking allowing it to reach people who need it in an earthy and professional way.

I have worked in private practice, school, universities and government health institutions and also representing therapeutic nonprofit organizations in the past. My bachelor degree is in Family Counseling and the two master's degrees I have studied, Gestalt and Existential therapy, are directly related to the practice that IAC represents and I would like to be part of this Association and bringing more committed Latin members to it. There are several ideas that would make the work of IAC advance in Latin Countries, starting from the strategic networking with universities to allow students to understand the bigger picture of the profession before they are out of University (Most universities in Latin Countries do not promote so directly to become part of international Associations or creating strategic networks) as well as bringing IAC into more conversations in Latin Institutions, Conferences and between counsellors. I am sure I can bring something positive to our continent if I am accepted as a member of the council and I know I will learn a lot from passionate colleagues interested in bringing hope and understanding to people.



## **Rogeria Picoli**

### **Candidate for Regional Member – Latin America**

I am very much interested in running as a candidate for the next IAC Executive Council elections as a Regional Representative for Latin America. The reason why I am standing for office is due to the passion and values I share with the IAC organization in the important mission of constructing “a world where counselling is available to all.” Besides accomplishing with the eligibility criteria for the position, I also have 20 years’ experience working as Executive Assistant in big corporations and also as Administrative and Financial Planning Advisory in BOVESPA, Latin America biggest Stock exchange Company. As a Counsellor, I strongly believe I have the required skills to “represent IAC and its values and to develop knowledge of counselling” in Latin America. Being Brazilian and currently living in Argentina, I see a great opportunity to introduce counselling in Brazil, a Portuguese speaking nation with 240 million people, most of them without access to psychological assistance, either for economic reasons or for cultural barriers. According to the Brazilian Federal Psychology Council, there are today 338.659 psychologists working in the whole country, which means one professional for approximately 70 thousand people. Compared with the neighbor country Argentina, which has almost 200 professionals for each 100 thousand people (OMS World Mental Health Atlas, 2014), IAC has a huge ground to explore, starting with public universities offering counselling degrees programs and later with Government including counselling in public health programs.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the possibility of contributing as the Latin America Regional Representative for this honorable Executive Council.



**Dominic Nsona**

**Candidate for Regional Member – Africa**

My name is Dominic Nsona. I was born on April, 10, 1975 in Blantyre the commercial city of Malawi. I joined the counselling profession at certificate level right here in Malawi in the year 2000 and later a higher diploma which I did in Kenya. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Counselling obtained at Kenya Association of Professional Counsellors which is jointly offered by University of Manchester in the UK. My nineteen years in this profession has given me a vast knowledge and understanding in working with clients of different levels of public health issues. Until 31st March, 2019, I worked with the Lighthouse, the organization I work for, one of the reliable partners of Ministry of Health in the provision of HIV testing and counselling and other mental health related issues. I have gained such a great experience over the years. I am one of the most sought-after professional counsellor with an average of not less than 2 counselling hours per week.

I am the current president of the Malawi Association for counselling, I vibrant association for professional counsellors that is working to lobby for the recognition of counsellors in Malawi. We are currently developing a counselling policy with the ministry of gender and are looking at presenting this at parliament before it becomes a policy.

I have known International Association of counselling (IAC) since around 2015 when Malawi Association of counselling (MAC) become a bonafide member and was privileged to present a paper at the 51st Congress of the IAC in Buenos Aires in Argentina in 2017 on the strides of advancing counselling in Africa.

Counselling is still developing in Africa and therefore every available channel and efforts to advance its growth is a welcoming and worth-while initiative.

I am ready to work with IAC to advance counselling.



**Jessica Bertolani**

**Candidate for Regional Member – Europe**

I am writing to express my wish to stand for election to the IAC Executive Council as Regional Member – Europe. Three years ago, I had the privilege to join the IAC Executive Council and deepen my knowledge of IAC. I found myself in line with its values and mission. I strongly believe in international collaboration in order to advance counselling all over the world and IAC can play a key role in promoting the profession.

Creating a world where counselling is available to all, respecting the different counselling traditions, being able to facilitate networks, helping countries where counselling is not established yet are some of the actions that put IAC in the best position to support and advocate for counsellors worldwide.

I think IAC is ready to take a step forward, for example by being closer to members and reaching new ones increasing small events/seminars/conferences in different part of the world, Europe in this case, and not only through the big annual conference; by investing in international research; having representatives in national and international conferences and/or sponsoring such events when possible to have a greater visibility; improving social media; maintaining good relationships with the main counselling associations of the world and finding new ways of collaboration with them. It would be an honor to have the chance to work with and for IAC to help achieve its important goals, especially in Europe where it is time for counsellors to look at IAC as a solid association to refer to.



**Matt Lyons**

**Candidate for Regional Member – North America**

It is my pleasure to humbly accept the nomination for the IAC Regional Member for North America. It is an honor to be part of IAC and it would be an honor to serve on the Executive Council. I believe I would make an excellent member of the Executive Council because of my experience with transcultural counselor education, my leadership experience, and my core values. In parallel with my involvement in IAC, I have been involved in an initiative to establish a collaborative transcultural counselor education program. My international work fostered the beginnings of research agenda on transcultural issues in counseling. I have also been able to include and mentor many Ph.D. students to engage with IAC and transcultural counseling.

Additionally, I have significant leadership experience. My own dissertation research was on leadership in the counseling profession. I have served on American Counseling Association Committees, state counseling organizations, etc. I currently serve on the American Counseling Association Public Policy and Legislative Action Committee and finishing a term as President of Michigan Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. Most importantly, the values of IAC and the mission to promote well-being, respect, peace, and social justice are at the core of my identity. Those values are not just professional mandates but they are values that guide my life and the lenses through which I see the world. I believe our profession can and should be at the forefront of promoting these realities around the world.

I have spent significant time thinking about where I want invest in the next phase of my career. I believe I have the experience and expertise to help serve the mission of IAC. It would be an honor to serve IAC's Regional Member for North America.



**Ruth Falzon**

**Candidate for Member-at-Large**

I am standing for election as a member at large as I feel I can contribute to the running of the association. As a counselling researcher, I feel I can contribute toward the advancement of counselling. Further, I am standing out for election as was encouraged to do so.



**Dirk Rohr**

**Candidate for Member-at-Large**

Dr. Dione Mifsud asked if I am interested to stand as member of the IAC Executive Council. I answered "it is a honour to be asked." I joined the 2018 IAC Conference as the Representative of the German National Association (I am their treasurer since 2016). Now I am President of the European Association for Counselling (EAC) and I want to collaborate with the IAC. I think we can support each other. I do absolutely have the same vision as the IAC, to strengthen

counselling within the world, to make counselling available to all – to empower the people! I will work on promoting the IAC.

Since 2001 I have led several institutions at the University of Cologne. I am executive manager of the Faculty of Humanities, Head of the Counselling Research Group and Director of the Center for Advanced Teaching and Learning. I would love to be a Member-at-Large of the IAC executive council.



**Amalia Madihie**

**Candidate for Member-at-Large**

My name is Amalia Madihie and currently I am working at the Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, MALAYSIA. I am a senior lecturer for counselling and the Deputy Dean for Industry, Community Engagement and Commercialization in the same faculty. I, once again received a new president’s appointment as Executive Member from Persatuan Kaunseling Malaysia Antarabangsa (PERKAMA International), also known as International Counselling Association of Malaysia (ICAM) for 2019-2021. My new portfolio in PERKAMA International is International Relation.

Both positions- as deputy dean and executive member- give me opportunity to engage with local and international counsellors to enhance and strengthen partnership in counselling, especially in Asia Region. I am a counselling educator at a public university in Malaysia and development of counselling education is always in my heart. It is important to enhance the standard of counselling education through advocacy and policy in general.

One of my initiatives to engage education, partnership, help to promote IAC to new potential members is through international counselling conference. Back in 2015, my team and I were managed to convince the IAC committee members to organize IAC Conference in 2020 in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. I managed to engage four big entities in counselling such IAC, PERKAMA International, Sarawak State of Government, and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. With these partnerships, we form a team to organize the International Counselling Conference 2020 (ICC2020) which joining the IAC Conference 2020, the 2nd Malaysia International Counselling Conference 2020, and Psychology and Counselling Day for Sarawak Civil Services 2020. ICC2020 will be held at Hilton Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia on 10th to 13th August 2020.

The initiative is hoped to bring scholars in counselling from Malaysia, Asia, European countries, United Kingdom, United States of America, Australia, African Countries, and Middle East countries to gather and meet. Thank you for taking the time to review my application for standing Member-at-Large.



## **Jochen Becker-Ebel**

### **Candidate for Member-at-Large**

To assist in conflict resolution and personal growth in group-related work have been my basic calls in life. I am not afraid to organize myself and join and promote organizations as to bring this on a larger / international scale. I apply to serve in the IAC Executive Council as a member- at-large.

I am an active member in my professional organisations DGP (Palliative Care), DGSv (Supervision) and DGP (psychodrama, both: members of DGfB) in Germany and Europe; presently on the CC of IAPC (Palliative Care in India) too; and a member of ASGPP. Since 2018 I did my postgraduate Psychodrama Training Institutes PIB (founded 1973, Germany) and Vedadrama India are Members of IAC. Their Executive Education in Humanistic Psychodrama got the IAC Certificate of Councelling Programm end of 2018. My students come from 10 countries including Iran, Qatar, China, India....

In addition to my work in Executive Education I teach and organize Palliative Care Education. I own a 30+ staff organization in Germany ([www.mediacion.de](http://www.mediacion.de)) and I am part time University Professor for Geriatric Palliative Care in India. Internationalisation and digitalization of work places, groups, people and even “self” / self-experience will need new approaches to counselling as well in professional life as in therapy/life coaching. This includes internationalization of training too.



## **Kristen Dickens**

### **Candidate for Member-at-Large**

I am submitting my application to be considered for one of the Member-At-Large positions on the Executive Council of IAC. I am an Assistant Professor of Counselor Education at Georgia Southern University, and am in the process of obtaining my license in Georgia. I also hold the credentials of National Board Certified Counselor (NCC) and Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS). I joined IAC in 2018 in an effort to broaden my knowledge of counseling practices outside of the United States, and connect with counseling professionals in a global forum. Attending and presenting at the IAC conference in Pomezia granted me the opportunity to learn from and network with international counselors and supervisors. Engaging with these professionals allowed me to deepen my understanding of unique cultural practices and ethical issues with clients in countries other than the United States. As one of my research areas is multicultural competence, attending this conference propelled my desire to find new ways to interact with international professionals within the IAC community and beyond. Though I am a new member to IAC, I am dedicated to seeking new ways of connecting the professional members within the organization, and encouraging membership of graduate students. Two professional leadership positions of which I am most proud include local and national service with Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) International, which is the leading international honor society for counseling and counselor education programs in the United States. Locally, I serve as the faculty advisor for the Gamma Sigma Chapter of CSI at Georgia Southern, a position I've held for the past four years. For the past five years I have served as the national Chair of CSI's Awards Committee, a position that has allowed me to connect professionally with faculty and students in counselor education programs, and counseling practitioners and supervisors. I regularly communicate with CSI chapter members about opportunities within the organization



to network and recognize the achievements of students, faculty, and practitioners. I also facilitate the national awards program for CSI at the annual American Counseling Association conference.

As a counselor educator I have focused my professional service endeavors on preparing my students for careers as effective, compassionate counselors and as global citizens. I would value the opportunity to work closely with members of IAC leadership, and collaborate on service initiatives to share with my students. I look forward to the chance to do so if chosen to serve as a Member-At-Large with IAC.

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