



The International Association of Applied Psychology at the United Nations in Geneva

Raymond Saner & Lichia Yiu, Feb. 2019

(Applied Psychology around the World, APAW, IAAP Bulletin, Vol 1, Issue 3, September 2019, ISSN 2639-6521, pp. 95-101 enlarged).

IAAP representation to the United Nations offices in Geneva goes back to the year 2006. The authors were invited to represent IAAP by former President Michael Frese in November 2005 upon the suggestion of Dr Walter Reichman, IAAP-International Representative based in New York. What follows is a description of the UN Agencies based in Geneva as well as the major organisations which represent civil society also based in Geneva. As second step, the authors give an example of the complexity and importance of UN decision making processes exemplified with the attempts to create a universal agreement on the protection of older persons. Finally, a description of the Sustainable Development Goals is listed with possible interlinkages with the divisions of IAAP.

The UNITED NATIONS offices and main CSOs in Geneva

The United Nations office at Geneva has its roots in the preceding League of Nations which lasted from 1929-to 1938 but then lost its mandate and institutional raison-d'être with the advent of the Second World War. Once the atrocious WWII was over, a follow-on institution was created in 1945 called United Nations which has its headquarters in New York and Geneva and whose purpose is to prevent another world war in the future.

The **United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)** is the second-largest of the four major office sites of the United Nations (New York, Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna). The Geneva UN office hosts the headquarters of other UN institutions and several leading international NGOs. What follows is a non-exhaustive list of UN Agencies and NGOs based in Geneva

Table 1: The United Nations Agencies and Non-governmental Organisations based in Geneva (a non-exhaustive list)

UN Agencies and International Organisations (Note 1)	NGOs with offices in Geneva (Note 2)
<u>Conference on Disarmament</u>	Amnesty International - United Nations Office
<u>International Bureau of Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organisation</u>	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development - FORUM-ASIA
<u>International Labour Organization</u>	Association for Inclusive Peace
<u>International Trade Centre</u>	Care International

<u>International Telecommunication Union</u>	Diplo Foundation
<u>Joint Inspection Unit</u>	<u>Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining</u>
<u>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Note 3)</u>	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Force
<u>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</u>	<u>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</u>
<u>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</u>	<u>Geneva Centre for Security Policy</u>
<u>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</u>	<u>International Air Transport Association Office in Geneva (Headquartered in Montreal)</u>
<u>United Nations Human Rights Council</u>	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
<u>United Nations Commission on Human Rights</u>	<u>International Committee of the Red Cross</u>
<u>United Nations Institute for Training and Research</u>	<u>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</u>
<u>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</u>	<u>International Organization for Standardization</u>
<u>United Nations Research Institute For Social Development</u>	<u>International Union for Conservation of Nature</u>
<u>World Health Organization</u>	<u>Inter-Parliamentary Union</u>
<u>World Intellectual Property Organization</u>	<u>Médecins Sans Frontières</u>
<u>World Meteorological Organization</u>	<u>World Council of Churches</u>
World Trade Organization	<u>World Business Council for Sustainable Development</u>
Intergovernmental Bodies	<u>World Nature Organization</u>
European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) (Note 4)	<u>Internet Governance Forum</u>
<u>International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Note 5)</u>	<u>Geneva Call</u>

Note 1: For a complete listing of International Organisations in Geneva, please visit [http://www.genevainternational.org/pages/en/55;International Organisations](http://www.genevainternational.org/pages/en/55;International_Organisations)

Note 2: For a complete listing of the NGOs in Geneva, please visit <http://www.geneve-int.ch/categories/non-governmental-organizations>

Note 3: The UN Commission on Human Rights has been replaced by the UN Human Rights Council in 2006 with 47 elected members. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was entrusted with the unique mandate to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realisation, by all people, of all human rights.
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ABOUTUS/Pages/Mandate.aspx>

Note 4: CERN is an intergovernmental organisation with 23 Member States with a selected number of countries affiliated as Associate Member States and others with Observer status.
<https://home.cern/about/who-we-are/our-governance/member-states>

Note 5: IOM was made a Related Organisation to the UN through the adoption of a resolution by the Member States of the General Assembly on 25th July 2016. <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-becomes-related-organization-un>

For NGOs and CSOs, the task of following all the deliberations and negotiations at the major UN Agencies and leading CSOs is very demanding. Some of the activities happen at the UN headquarters in New York while related activities might take place at Geneva based UN Agencies. Following and influencing complex negotiations at multiple sites necessitate a comprehensive understanding of what gets to be negotiated, where decisions are taken and in cooperation with whom? ¹

Example of the complexities of UN negotiations: Deliberations on an agreement concerning protection of older persons

To give a recent example of such complexity, the topic in point will be human rights and protection of older people. Human societies have seen an unprecedented age bonus because of the extended life expectancy now reaching 80 years or higher in many developed economies. The number of people who are older than 60 years of age reached 901 million in 2015 representing 12.3% of the total world population. By 2050, it is forecasted that this number will reach 2.09 billion worldwide. This development has changed the demographic distribution of populations and the demand patterns for public services and resource allocation.

The distribution of the senior population across the world is uneven and correlates with the

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_international_organizations_based_in_Geneva

wealth of individual countries. Presently, most of the advanced economies have 20-29% of the population older than 60 years of age. By contrast, by 2050 African countries are expected to be the only ones to enjoy a youth bonus while the rest of the world is fast joining the silver society (UNDESA, 2015).

In the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the SDGs clearly identify older people as an integral part of social development for instance in Goal 3 - "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages". At the same time, disrespect of older persons' human rights are reported from both developed and developing countries.

Different initiatives have been launched to bring to the public's attention that older people often experience severe discrimination (Ageism) and appalling situation in elderly care institutions and even at home in the context of family.

The following institutions are contributing to the international efforts to create policies and international agreement that could lead to an international convention for the protection of older persons:

1. **Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.** The Open- Ended Working Group on Ageing was established by the General Assembly by resolution 65/182 on 21 December 2010. The working group will consider the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identify possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures. It meets regularly in New York. <https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/>.
2. **The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).** For the first time, the Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of 2017 focused on the human rights of older persons. It identified four main challenges older persons are facing in terms of human rights as discrimination, poverty, violence and abuse as well as the lack of specific measures and services. The report further stresses several key areas for responses to the challenges as strengthening the international protection regime, elimination of financial exploitation and employment discrimination, establishing adequate care facilities and participation in political life. The meetings of OHCHR are mostly held in Geneva.
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/olderpersons/pages/olderpersonsindex.aspx>
3. **United Nations Economic Commission of Europe Working Group on Aging (UNECE-WGA).** The Working Group on Ageing is an intergovernmental body which was first convened in 2008. It is made up of national focal points on ageing representing the member States of the UNECE region, along with representatives from international organizations, NGOs and academia. Member of the UNECE are countries from Europe, Central Asia and North America. Its meetings are held regularly in Geneva. <https://www.unece.org/population/wga.html>
4. **The World Health Organisation (WHO)** focuses on Health and Ageing. The Department of Ageing and Life Course organises its work according to the 5 strategic priority areas identified in its Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health (2016-2020) such as commitment to action, age-friendly environments, health systems that meet the

needs of older people, long-term-care systems and data and research. (<http://www.who.int/ageing/en/>). Its publication titled “Global Health and Ageing” (2015) focuses on the rights of older people and health related aspects of Ageing (see https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/global_health.pdf). For the policy framework on active and health ageing, the World Report on Ageing and Health http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CD4094A4741FD432B2B35373C77022E2?sequence=The WHO meetings are held in Geneva.

5. **Different NGOs** focus on the Rights of the Older people such as the **GAROP** (Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People)- <http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org/>; **The Grey Panthers** – (<http://www.graypanthersnyc.org/>); **The NGO Committee on Ageing** based in Geneva (<http://ageingcommitteegenewa.org/>); and other NGOs such as the Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development, **CSEND**, an ECOSOC accredited NGOs (<http://www.csend.org/active-aging-aging-with-dignity-and-the-sdgs/466-csend-geneva>). The various ageism advocacy NGOs are located in the NY, UK, Geneva, Canada, Australia and other countries and their meetings are spread across the world necessitating continuous inter-NGO coordination and alliance building

The example given highlights the complexity of advocacy at the UN and international conference level. IAAP representatives need to coordinate across New York, Geneva and Vienna as well as with different other civils society organisations located in different countries.

The SDGs and linkages to IAAP’s divisions

To stay with a major contemporary topic namely the 2030 Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals, IAAP representatives should follow the various developments around the SDGs and attempt to bring perspectives and positions to bear of psychology.

However, the SDGs are complex, consisting of 17 Goals, 169 Targets and 230 Indicators. In order to bring to bear psychological perspective s to the working of the SDGs, it would be beneficial for the respective IAAP representatives to identify which of the UN agencies and/or offices hosted in their city is in charge of which of the SDG goals and targets and how do these goals interrelate.

Take the example of Geneva, different UN Agencies have custodian roles for SDG goals and hence responsibility to do their best effort to ensure achievement of the related targets till 2030 to be measured against the indicators agreed upon by the UN General Assembly.

The list below (Table 2) gives an overview of the SDGs goals being negotiated and developed in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. The second column lists the Geneva based UN Agencies and their role in regard to the SDGs. The next column lists the main NGOs involved with the respective SDG and further to the right are our suggestions as to which IAAP divisions might be interested in following the SDGs.

Table 2: Mapping of the SDG Goals, UN Agencies and Non-Government Organisations in Geneva with the Divisional Competences of IAAP

SDGs	UN Agencies and International Organisations in Geneva	University and NGOs based in Geneva (non- exclusive list)	Potential interest for IAAP divisions
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	FAO Rome/Geneva Representative Office OHCHR, Geneva UNDP Office in Geneva	Agha Kahn Foundation Caritas Internationals CSEND	Division 5, 3,7, 9, 11
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	FAO, Rome/Geneva representative office UNICEF, European Office in Geneva	FH Switzerland/ the network of Food for the Hungry Oxfam International Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition	Division 3, 9, 11
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	WHO, Geneva UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva UNICEF, New York UNAIDS UN Population Fund	World Vision International GAVI Alliance The Global Fund to Fight AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria Medicines for Malaria Venture Council on Health Research for Development Roll Back Malaria Partnership	Division 8, 7,6, 1, 11, 12, 14, 16

<p>Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all inequality</p>	<p>International Bureau of Education UNESCO. Paris and Liaison Office in Geneva UNICEF United Nations Research Institute for Social Development</p>	<p>Enfants du Monde NORRAG Global Apprenticeship Network World ORT (The Organisation for Education Resources and Technological Training)</p>	<p>division 5, 3, 2</p>
<p>Goal 5. Achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p>UN Women, New York UNFPA, New York ILO, Geneva</p>	<p>NGO Committee on Women CARE International's Geneva-based Secretariat Women@the Table</p>	<p>Division 1, 3. 6, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14</p>
<p>Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	<p>UN Water, New York UNDP, New York, Paris, Geneva. UNEP, Nairobi, Geneva, Paris</p>	<p>Toilet Board Coalition Geneva Water Hub Waterlex Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council</p>	<p>Division 1, 3. 6</p>
<p>Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<p>UNIDO, Vienna, Geneva International Energy Agency International Renewable Energy Agency</p>	<p>Engineers without Borders Switzerland</p>	<p>Division 1, 4, 3. 6, 9, 10, 11, 13</p>
<p>Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<p>International Labour Organisation (ILO) International Trade Centre (ITC) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p>	<p>Int. Trade Union Office Employer's Association NORRAG</p>	<p>Division 1, 3. 6, 9</p>

	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	International Social Security Association Action Aid, CUTS International ODI, London	
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	UNIDO, Vienna, UN-Habitat, Nairobi	World Business Council for Sustainable Development, WBDSD, Geneva	Division 1, 3, 6, 9, 13
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	UNCTAD, Geneva, WTO, Geneva	Third World Network ODI, London Inter-Parliamentary Union	Division 5, 3, 9, 10
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	UNHABITA, Nairobi UNICEF, NYC/Geneva WHO	The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP)IISD, Canada and Geneva CSEND, Geneva	Division 4, 1, 3, 5, 6, 13
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	UNCTAD/circular economy, Geneva	IISD, Canada and Geneva World Economic Forum Circular Economy Incubator, Impact Hub, Geneva Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform	Division 9, 4, 1, 3, 5, 10, 11,
Goal 13 take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	World Meteorological Organisation Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	International Union for Conservation of Nature Geneva Environment Network	Division 4, 1, 3, 5, 11, 13

	UNEP, Nairobi, Paris, Geneva	IISD, Canada, Geneva International Emissions Trading Association	
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	UNEP, New York, UNEP, NY, Paris and Geneva, UNCTAD, Geneva	World Ocean Council Save Our Seas Foundation My Drop in the Oceans	Division 4, 9,1, 3, 5, 13
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	UN-REDD Programme, Geneva UNEP, Nairobi, Paris, Geneva UNCTAD, Geneva Basle Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal Group on Earth Observations Ramsar Convention on Wetlands UN Convention to Combat Desertification	The Forest Trust IISD, Canada, Geneva International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants	Division 4, 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	UN-OHCHR, Geneva, UNHCR, Geneva IOM, Geneva Joint Inspection Unit of the UN United Nations Office for Project Services UN Office for Disarmament Affairs International Court of Justice	ICRC, Geneva Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva Amnesty International -United Nations Office DCAF, Geneva Geneva Peace Building Platform CSEND	Division 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14

	International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)	Graduate Institute The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights ICT for Peace Foundation	
<u>Goal 17</u> . Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	UN Office at Geneva UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) WTO, Geneva ITC, Geneva, UNECE- PPP, Geneva International Telecommunication Union	WBCSD, Geneva WEF, Geneva Business Humanitarian Forum (BHF) International Humanitarian Infrastructure Platform Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Internet Society Diplo Foundation	Division 1, 9, 10 , 11, 13

Table 2 is a proposition to create closer links between the divisions and the SDGs. Identification of matching interests and thematic focuses will require more discussions with IAAP leadership and the heads of the IAAP divisions.

It would also be very useful to reach out to other social science disciplines such as Sociology, political science, anthropology, economics, and environmental science to name some with academic proximity to Psychology.

Psychology and the other scientific communities appear to be not as effective as they could be due to the self-imposed academic silo thinking which makes cooperation and alliance building difficult. This could be because of captive separate research funding, scope of research (lack of inter-disciplinary approach) and self-referential importance given to their respective discipline's literature.

As one of the largest professional groups, there is a need for IAAP to reach out and create alliances with other like-minded professional communities so as to strengthen the relevance of the field of Psychology and to better present the social and behavioural sciences at the UN.

There is no time to wait! As the top scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change told us, the + 2.5 centigrade warming is approaching faster than originally forecasted. (SDG 13). For our future generations, IAAP members should be more closely organised so that their expertise can be brought to bear in sustaining our planetary ecosystem.

Closing Comments

Psychology as a scientific community faces multiple negative perceptions from various stakeholders- government, NGOs and business alike. The most apparent is the amalgamation of Psychology with clinical practice. Clinical psychology is a core domain of Psychology but not the only domain of importance.

Some UN delegates expressed interest in how Psychology can contribute to the global wellbeing but often times such expression of interest is not answered by the different branches of Psychology. As a consequence of such mismatched encounters, non-psychology stakeholders fill their lack of understanding what psychology could offer to the UN system by reiterating their beliefs that psychology means clinical psychology.

What is needed is to bring to the attention of the international community that IAAP can contribute much more in various applied fields which could support UN's effort in eradicating poverty through higher productivity, more equitable development and decent work.

The challenges that the United Nations and its affiliated state and non-state actors face call for coordinated efforts to transform our global economic system from being driven by unsustainable consumption and production (SDG 12) to that of the living within planetary boundaries and shared and more equal forms of social and economic development.

The 2030 Agenda leaves us all with 11 years to accomplish its goals and objectives. IAAP can help the international community achieve a more fair and just distribution of wealth and support dignity for all regardless of gender, age, race and religion.

To move the IAAP and its members towards more participation in the discourse, deliberation and actions of the UN and the SDGs is not self-evident and requires major efforts to explain to the IAAP members the role and mandates of the UN Agencies and their link to the SDGs. This also requires a concerted effort and deeper reflection how individual divisions of the IAAP can participate and support the various UN agencies in their fight against poverty, hunger, diseases, injustices and environment degradation.

Let's move IAAP beyond its traditional role of being mostly the convenor of professional gatherings and instead bring about more engagement with the current challenges and risks that the world community is facing today. It is our hope that IAAP will mobilise its global presence and membership to achieve the greater good in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Let's work towards leaving a legacy for the future generations and make our planet a more sustainable and just world for all.

Annex 1, IAAP Divisions

Division 1 – Work and Organizational Psychology

Focuses on understanding, explaining and shaping attitudes and behaviour in organizational settings and identifying conditions that promote motivation, creativity, competency, teamwork, leadership, health and wellbeing, as well as the central role of human resources in strategic organizational planning.

Division 2 – Psychological Assessment and Evaluation

Deals with the development of educational and psychological tests and their administration, the expansion of state and national educational testing programs, and the use of tests in work and clinical contexts. It also involves issues of test construction, administration and scoring, as well as adaptation from one language and culture to others.

Division 3 – Psychology and Societal Development

Is concerned in part with the ways psychology can contribute to human well-being at a societal level involving issues such as health, education, gender equality, ethnic tolerance, intergroup relations and even political disputes. Primary emphasis, however, is placed upon understanding how these are affected by different histories, cultures, ethnicities and epistemologies, and thus the call for applications of psychology to be cognisant of these differences.

Division 4 – Environmental Psychology

Examines the interactions between people and their physical settings and the effects that one has on the other. Emphasis is upon enhancing this relationship by improving society's investment in

the built environment (buildings, streets, parks, the atmosphere), and reducing its negative aspects, especially in areas such as poverty, crime, terrorism and climate change, for example.

Division 5 – Educational, Instructional and School Psychology

Aims to help every student achieve the highest possible degree of maturity, including intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially, and how this is influenced by factors ranging from family, school, community, society and culture to diverse teaching methods, curriculum and a school environment that promote curiosity and encourages creativity.

Division 6 – Clinical and Community Psychology

Clinical Psychology focuses on understanding, preventing, diagnosing and treating psychological, cognitive, emotional, developmental, behavioural and family problems in children, adolescents and adults. Community Psychology is concerned with building competencies, behavioural changes and agency in individuals, communities and societies, thereby enhancing the quality of life at all three levels.

Division 7 – Applied Gerontology

Is typified by three areas of interest: age (concerned with difference between people of different ages), aging (deals with changes in functioning across the life span), and the aged (focused upon the elderly). Essentially the aim is to help people adjust to age and aging so as to add life to years rather than years to life, especially through having a positive self- perception on aging and keeping active both physically and mentally.

Division 8 – Health Psychology

Focuses upon explaining and changing health-related behaviour and on the role of psychological processes in health, illness, and healthcare delivery. Topics include symptoms and their investigation; cognitive, emotional and behavioural responses to illness; cognitive behavioural interventions; and treatment behaviour.

Division 9 – Economic Psychology

Promotes and discusses research, as well as policy making, on the interface of psychology and economics including topics such as money management, spending, saving and credit use and debts as well as financial and psychological preparation for retirement, money and inflation, felt inflation and consumer spending, and contra-productivity such as tax non- compliance, shadow economy and fraud.

Division 10 – Psychology and Law

Although starting as a combination of the two separate disciplines of psychology and law, the field has emerged as one in its own right with its own epistemology, experimental techniques, and expertise. Within the field, however, there are two areas of specialisation. One is based upon experimental psychology, epitomised in research into eyewitness testimony. The other is clinically oriented of which an example is the assessment of recidivism.

Division 11 – Political Psychology

Examines human behaviour in a wide spectrum of settings, mainly national and international, in which psychology and political matters converge. Topics, for example, range at one level from voting behaviour and political extremism through to nuclear threat and terrorism, and at another from their associated motives and attitudes (such as changing attitudes, especially among adolescents, to war and peace) through to conflict resolution and negotiation.

Division 12 – Sport Psychology

Sport Psychology is concerned with the study and application of psychological and mental factors that influence and are influenced by participation in physical activity in general, and in sport, exercise and physical education. Sport psychology may be divided into three main areas: psychology of motor learning, exercise psychology and applied sport psychology. Each of these areas has contributed substantially to the understanding of humans in movement.

Division 13 – Traffic and Transportation Psychology

Traffic and Transportation Psychology is substantially concerned with the what, the how, and the why of road safety. As well it is heavily involved in the field of evaluation of countermeasures, including work in simulators where research is often multi-disciplinary in nature involving engineers and statisticians. Specific areas in which Traffic Psychology is particularly visible include seat belts, behavioural measures relating to enforcement, the development of road signage, speed limits, driver distraction, and the older driver licensing question (when should people quit?).

Division 14 – Applied Cognitive Psychology

Concerns applications of cognitive studies arising out of interactions with allied fields such as cognitive ergonomics, psychophysics, cognitive neuropsychology, engineering psychology,

human factors engineering, cognitive engineering, new information technologies, computer supported cooperative work (CSCW), cyberspaces and virtual life research, neuro- ergonomics, psychology of learning and instruction, natural language processing (speech competence, reading, writing), the legal process (eye-witnesses, face and voice identification), decision making, conflict resolution as well as creativity research and training.

Division 15 – Psychology Students

Aims to promote and support a network of students who share a common interest in international development, teaching, trends, applications, and research in applied psychology. Activities include exchanging scientific knowledge; sharing useful information for students such as mobility programmes, scholarships, research grants, study and work abroad; and promoting international and cross-cultural research.

Division 16 – Counselling Psychology

Aims to help individuals, families, groups and organizations with their educational, developmental and adjustment concerns and in so doing employs a wide range of assessment and intervention strategies. Generally speaking clients experience moderate adjustment and psychological problems as opposed to severe psychopathology, interventions are short-term, service is out-patient rather than in-patient, the context is frequently educational or work, and emphasis is upon preventative interventions.

Division 17 – Professional Psychology

Places a strong emphasis upon evidence-based practice and covers a wide range of matters of central interest to practicing psychologists. These include accreditation, registration, quality and standards, supervision and mentoring, ethics, service delivery, workplace conditions, advertising standards, technological orientation, and political orientation and advocacy.

Division 18 – History of Applied Psychology

Fosters an historical approach to understanding, developing and reinforcing the institutional identity of our discipline. It encourages the preservation of technical reports in congresses and journals, qualitative and quantitative data collection procedures, and archival technique to keep safe documents that may well serve to maintain the identity of a tradition, a school or a national development.