



14th Annual PSYCHOLOGY DAY at the UNITED NATIONS

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUILDING BACK BETTER IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

**Thursday, 15 April 2021
11:00am – 1:30pm USA EST**

Website: <http://unpsychologyday.com>

Website: <http://PsychologyCoalitionUN.org>

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**The Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations
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**See the final page of this program for a complete list of co-sponsors.*

Welcome to the Fourteenth Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations!

The Psychology Coalition at the UN is delighted to welcome you to the Fourteenth Annual Psychology Day. We hope this year's program will stimulate your interest in psychological contributions to support the UN agenda in building a better post-pandemic world. To find out about ways to become more involved in this work and related issues, please visit our website: <http://www.unpsychologyday.com>.

We are very grateful for the support we have received for this year's conference. First, we would like to thank our Mission co-sponsors, the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, and the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations. We also thank the members and interns of the Psychology Coalition of NGOs having consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council for their dedication and efforts related to Psychology Day.

Special thanks to this year's core Psychology Day Planning Committee members for the amount of time and effort they devoted to organizing this year's event:

Walter Reichman, Ed.D., Janet Sigal, Ph.D., and Comfort Asanbe, Ph.D., Psychology Day Co-Chairs; Leslie Popoff, Ph.D., Psychology Coalition, President; Roseanne Flores, Ph.D., Rashmi Jaipal, Ph.D., Ayorkor Gaba, PsyD., Michelle Bell, Ph.D., Elizabeth Kloner, Ph.D., Cynthia Grguric, Ph.D., Nelida Quintero, Ph.D., Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D., Efrat Neter, Ph.D., Carmen Vazquez, Ph.D., Anna Stauber, and Odetta Saul.

Special thanks and recognition to Josephine Juanamarga, APA administrative assistant for all her logistical support.

PROGRAM

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL PSYCHOLOGY DAY at the UNITED NATIONS

THEME: PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUILDING BACK BETTER IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 is the most deadly pandemic in 100 years. Globally, challenges have increased for millions of people including: escalation of mental health problems, severe economic issues including food insecurity, and educational difficulties experienced by students due to a transition to remote learning. Societal problems have been exacerbated by COVID-19 including child abuse, violence against women and the “virus of hate.”

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, has outlined a UN “plan” to build a better world post-pandemic. Thanks to the efforts of our scientists and the availability of vaccines, we can look towards the future.

The Psychology Day 2021 program will present five psychologists from different sub-disciplines and various regions of the world, who will address the issues faced in a post-pandemic world based on cutting-edge psychological research. A developmental psychologist will re-imagine education in a post COVID-19 world; a social psychologist will provide best practices to reduce violence against women, and eliminate the virus of hate; an industrial/organizational psychologist will address the future of work; a clinical psychologist will address ways in which to expand mental health service for all individuals, including those in underserved populations; and a health psychologist will discuss how psychology can be applied to improve physical and mental health. These best practices in each sub-discipline can assist the UN and other organizations to build back better, more effectively respond to the global challenges ahead, and implement these tactics through a human rights lens.

WELCOME

Leslie Popoff, PhD.

President, Psychology Coalition of NGOs having consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council

OPENING REMARKS

Comfort B. Asanbe, Ph.D.

Representative of the American Psychological Association to the UN Department of Global Communication (DGC); Associate Professor in Psychology, College of Staten Island, City University of New York (CSI/CUNY)

REMARKS

Introduction of Minister Sully Saneaux

Janet A. Sigal, Ph.D.

*Representative of the International Council of Psychologists to the UN;
Professor Emeritus in Social Psychology, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

Minister Sully Saneaux

Minister Counsellor to Ambassador Jose Blanco, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic Mission to the UN

PANEL

Introduction of H.E. Ambassador Richard Arbeiter

Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

Walter Reichman, Ed.D.

Main Representative of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) at UN; Professor Emeritus, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Baruch College and the Graduate Center of CUNY, Partner and Vice President of OrgVitality.

H.E. Ambassador Richard Arbeiter

Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

PANELISTS

Marina Umaschi Bers, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair at the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development, with a secondary appointment in the Computer Science Department, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, USA

Title of Presentation: Playgrounds and Playpens: The Role of New Technologies in Learning

Charlene Senn, Ph.D.

Professor in the Applied Social Psychology Graduate Program; Canada Research Chair in Sexual Violence, University of Windsor, Canada

Title of Presentation: Empowering women to resist: An evidence-based intervention to reduce sexual violence.

Michael Frese, Ph.D.

Full Professor for Management & Entrepreneurship; Asia School of Management (in collaboration with MIT Sloan Management), Malaysia

Title of Presentation: Psychology to Decrease Poverty in the World

Thema Bryant- Davis, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology; Director of the Culture and Trauma Research Lab, Pepperdine University, California, USA

Title of Presentation: Thriving in a Post-Pandemic World: Clinical Considerations

Molly Byrne, Ph.D.

Professor of Health Psychology; Director of Health Behavior Change National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Title of Presentation: Contributions from Health Psychology to Building Back Better in a Post Pandemic World.

Q&A and DISCUSSION

Moderated by **H.E. Ambassador Richard Arbeiter**

Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

CLOSING REMARKS

Janet A. Sigal, Ph.D.

Comfort B. Asanbe, Ph.D.

H.E. AMBASSADOR RICHARD ARBEITER



Richard Arbeiter is the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, New York.

He joined the Canadian Foreign Service in 2001 and has worked across a broad range of international peace and security and global economic issues. His prior roles include: Director, Policy and Advocacy Division for the Afghanistan Task Force; G7/G20 Sherpa Assistant and Director, International Economic Relations and Summits Division; Director General, Office of Human Rights, Freedoms and Inclusion; and Director General, International Security Policy Bureau. Mr. Arbeiter previously served abroad at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York and the Embassy of Canada to Chile in Santiago.

Mr. Arbeiter holds an M.A. in International Affairs (Conflict Analysis) from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University in Ottawa and a B.A. in North American Studies from McGill University in Montreal.

He is married to Trent Hoole. They have one son, Sebastian.

BIOGRAPHIES OF PROGRAM SPEAKERS

(Listed in Order of Presentation)



Marina Umaschi Bers, Ph.D. is a professor and chair at the [Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development](#) at Tufts University with a secondary appointment in the Computer Science Department. She directs the interdisciplinary [Developmental Technologies](#) (DevTech) research group. Her research involves the design and study of innovative learning technologies to promote children's positive development, most specifically in early childhood. Dr Bers is the

co-creator of the free [ScratchJr](#) programming language, used by over 30 million children all over the world, and the creator of the [KIBO robotic kit](#), which helps children 4 to 7 years old learn how to code without screens or keyboards, using wooden blocks, in over 61 countries. Prof. Bers received a MEd from Boston University and an MS and PhD from the MIT Media Laboratory working with Seymour Papert. Marina's philosophy, pedagogical and theoretical approach can be found in her latest book ["Coding as Playground: Programming and Computational Thinking in the Early Childhood Classroom"](#) (Routledge, 2020).



Charlene Y. Senn, Ph.D., is a Professor and Tier I ([Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#)) Canada Research Chair in Sexual Violence at the [University of Windsor](#) (Canada). She is a social psychologist committed to the belief that high quality theory and research evidence can be used not only to understand our world but also applied to make it better. Her research centers on men's violence against women and girls and, since 2005, has focused on sexual violence prevention. She developed the Enhanced Assess, Acknowledge, Act (EAAA) sexual assault resistance education program (*Flip the Script with EAAA™*) for women in the first year of university. EAAA [reduces the sexual violence](#) women experience by 50% [across the next two years](#) while reducing woman-blaming and self-blame. To date, it

has been implemented on campuses in five countries. She has active research collaborations in the U.S. and Canada to adapt and evaluate EAAA for other groups, e.g., for younger girls (14-17) in the community, for Francophone and trans college students. She also contributes to sexual violence prevention and policy change through her consulting with universities and government committees and taskforces in Canada, the U.K., and U.S.



Michael Frese, Ph.D., is Full Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship at the Asia School of Management in Malaysia, Professor of Management at Lufthansa University in Germany and on leave from the National University of Singapore where he is Provost and Head of the Department of Management of the Business School. He was the Chair of Work and Organizational Psychology at the University of Giessen and a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics. He is a member of the German Academy of Science and a Fellow in the Academy of Management, the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and the Association for Psychological Science. He is the past president of the International Association of Applied Psychology

and initiated their representation at the United Nations. He has established an Entrepreneurial Training Program in Africa and Asia that successfully prepares people to open successful businesses that provides employment and thereby reducing poverty.



Thema Bryant-Davis, Ph.D. is a tenured professor of psychology at Pepperdine University, where she directs the Culture and Trauma Research Laboratory. Dr. Thema's clinical and research interests center on trauma recovery for marginalized communities. She completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Duke University and her post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical Center's Victims of Violence Program. She is a past American Psychological Association (APA) representative to the United Nations. Dr. Thema also chaired the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology. The International Division of APA honored her for her contributions to the study of gender and women in

2020. Dr. Thema served as an Associate Editor for the APA journal *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. She has raised public awareness by bringing psychology into the community through programming and media engagement, including but not limited to National Public Radio, OWN TV, CBS, and CNN.



Molly Byrne, Ph.D., is a Professor of Health Psychology at the School of Psychology in NUI Galway where she directs the [Health Behaviour Change Research Group \(HBCRG\)](#). This Group is a national hub and internationally-recognized center of excellence in the application of behavioral science to health behavioral intervention development, evaluation and implementation. Dr. Byrne's research aims to improve population health by developing and promoting an evidence-based behavioral science approach to health behavior change interventions. She is particularly interested in chronic disease prevention and management. Dr. Byrne is an Honorary Fellow of the

European Health Psychology Society and Associate Editor of *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. Recently, she has acted in an advisory capacity as a member of the Behavioral Change Subgroup to the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) for COVID-19 in Ireland. Dr. Byrne is a co-investigator on the the International Assessment of COVID-19-related Attitudes, Concerns, Responses and Impacts in Relation to Public Health Policies (iCARE) study (<https://mbmc-cmcm.ca/covid19/>) and the Health Research Board funded study identifying and addressing psychosocial determinants of adherence to physical distancing guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://hrbopenresearch.org/articles/3-58>).

PSYCHOLOGY DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS CHAIRS

(Listed in Order of Appearance)



Leslie Popoff, Ph.D. began her career working as a school psychologist in Pennsylvania, including Scranton State School for the Deaf. After receiving her Ph.D. from Fordham University she spent 10 years as the psychologist for the Helen Keller National Center for the Deaf Blind. She retired from the New York City Department of Education after 15 years as a Supervisor of Psychologists. Trained in divorce mediation and dispute resolution, Dr. Popoff also holds a Postdoctoral Certificate in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy from Adelphi University. She maintains a private practice in Great Neck, NY. Dr. Popoff is currently the President of the Psychology Coalition of NGOs having consultative status with the UN ECOSOC

(PCUN), and a UN representative for the International Council of Psychologists.



Comfort B. Asanbe, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of Staten Island/City University of New York (CSI/CUNY). Her research focuses on identifying the factors that pose a threat to the psychological health of children, especially those related to parental drug use, pre and postnatal drug environments, and child outcome. On the international scene, her work focuses on mental health and coping resources of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) due to parental HIV/AIDS. She is a

research fellow at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and has publications in scholarly psychological and medical journals, and book chapters on children's mental health. Dr. Asanbe is a representative of the American Psychological Association (APA) at the United Nations (UN), and designated to Department of Global Communication (DGC). She has a special interest in decreasing stigma around mental illness and HIV/AIDS in low-resource communities. For the 68th UN Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City, Dr. Asanbe served on the DGC planning committee that reviewed abstracts from NGOs across the globe. She is a licensed psychologist in New York State, and a volunteer with the New York Medical Corps. Dr. Asanbe is a Co-Chair of this year's Psychology Day at the UN event.



Janet A. Sigal, Ph.D. is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her research and writings focus on violence against women and girls. Dr. Sigal was the Co-Editor of a two volume set of books: “Violence against Girls and Women: An International Perspective,” co-author of a chapter on “Violence against Girls”, and a co-author of a recent chapter on: “Human Rights and Well-being of Older Persons: Challenges and Opportunities.” She is a Fellow of Divisions 1, 35, and 52 of the American Psychological Association, Past President of Division

One of the American Psychological Association, Past President of the International Council of Psychologists, and Past President of the Academic and Women’s Issues Divisions of the New York State Psychological Association. Dr. Sigal is a Representative of the International Council of Psychologists to the United Nations, Past Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing/NY, and a Co-Chair of the 2021 Virtual Psychology Day at the UN event.



Walter Reichman is a Professor Emeritus with a long and impressive career in I/O psychology, from Baruch College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he chaired the psychology department at Baruch College for 17 years (*with well over 120 students receiving their Masters and PhDs under his tutelage*). He is now a Partner and Vice President of OrgVitality a management consulting firm (*that helps organizations make sustainable improvements in their operations and increase their Vitality*) and is active in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations representing the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP). He applies the science of psychology to improve the deliberations

and programs of the United Nations. He co-hosts Brown Bag luncheons for (*the staff of*) the United Nations Development Program, and writes about *health, work and opportunities* for developing entrepreneurship among disenfranchised women *for the Council*. In general, you would be hard pressed to find someone that is more connected with Industrial and Organizational Psychologists in the New York area than Walter - whether in academia, the public sector, private industry, or consulting.

2021 Co-Sponsors

The Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations
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The following organizations are listed according to level of sponsorship.

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Dr. Rachel Ravich (SPSSI) and Mr. Eli Rosenbloom, 2010