



Welcome message from WACP president Kamaldeep Bhui

As President of the **World Association of Cultural Psychiatry**, I warmly welcome you to the 4th World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry, to be held in the beautiful city of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The World Association of Cultural Psychiatry was founded to encourage international collaboration, friendship, scholarship, research and compassionate care around the world. Sharing and exchanging best practice, and improving the safety and quality of mental health care is our priority, whilst working with diverse cultures, legal systems, commissioning processes and the wider political and social issues like stigma and funding that affect the quality of care. The theme of the congress is appropriately: **Global Challenges & Cultural Psychiatry**: Natural Disasters, Conflict, Insecurity, Migration and Spirituality. The congress will include high quality plenary lectures from international experts, and bring together diverse disciplines in shared learning. There will be an active social programme, and visits to local places of beauty. Most importantly, you will be in the company of the best scholars in the world on culture and mental health, and especially those that have dedicated their lives to understanding human conflict and trauma, and its psychological consequences. Of course treatment is one approach, but prevention and social, psychological and legal mechanisms to prevent conflict will be also be discussed. I look forward to seeing you all at this magnificent event, which follows previous World Congresses in London in 2012, Norcia, 2009, and Beijing 2006. Members of the World Association receive substantial discounts on registration fees, so please visit the World Association pages and become a member. The Congress President, Professor Villaseñor-Bayardo has picked an outstanding location and wonderful accommodation within which we shall enjoy research, practice, and theoretical perspectives on culture and mental health. I look forward to welcoming you and talking to you all.



**Welcome message from WACP co-founder
and past president
Goffredo Bartocci**

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to invite the scholars in Cultural Psychiatry to the IV World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry to be held in October 2015 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, chaired by Prof. Sergio Villaseñor-Bayardo.

As you know, the previous **World Congresses of Cultural Psychiatry** were held in Beijing, China (2006), Norcia, Italy (2009) and London, UK (2012).

Each of these three occasions of encounter for clinicians and scholars was quite exciting for the number of participants and for the high quality of scientific sessions, and each marked a cornerstone in the progress of Cultural Psychiatry.

As the co-founder and past President of **WACP**, my task was to follow its developments even on this occasion, which is an honour and quite a commitment.

I must underline, albeit at the cost of creating a corner of sadness within this happy occasion of the IV WCCP that after the death of Wen Shing Tseng, co-founder of **WACP**, the task of promoting **Cultural Psychiatry** is up to all of us. I am sure this congress will show our will to pick up Wen Shing Tseng's legacy.

Why is this congress particularly important? It is easy to explain. Mexico is a geographic connection between North and South America, and a bridge between Latin American culture and all other cultures. In 2010, I took part in the **GLADET** congress chaired by Prof. Villaseñor-Bayardo and I could experience first-hand the energy expressed by our colleagues from **GLADET**, who have mastered the art of grooming the two characteristics of **WACP**: science and friendship.

This congress will open up to a Psychiatry that will pay attention to cultural factors in the shaping and pathogenesis of psychiatric disorders. In line with the global challenges Cultural Psychiatry will have to face in the near future (which will be outlined in the next issue of the WCPRR), this congress, with its wide epistemological approach, will face broad topics such as human responses to natural and man-made disasters, conflicts, insecurity and the lay and theological meaning of spirituality.

Without being grandiose, I bet that after this **congress international Psychiatry** will be **Cultural Psychiatry**.

See you all soon in Mexico!

Best wishes



Welcome message from the congress president

Sergio J. Villaseñor-Bayardo

The **First World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry**, “Current Perspectives On Research And Clinical Issues In Cultural Psychiatry Around The World,” organized by the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry, was held in Beijing, China, from September 23 to September 26, 2006.

It was at this meeting that the Association was established formally.

The **Institute of Mental Health** of Peking University was the local sponsoring organization. The **World Association of Cultural Psychiatry** is a non-profit, freestanding, independent, international academic organization, whose aim is to promote the exchange of scientific and educational information and the progress of international activity in the field of cultural psychiatry worldwide.

Colleagues around the world with a background in psychiatry, clinical psychology, medical anthropology and other mental health-related disciplines who are interested in cultural psychiatry are members of the Association.

Pr. Wen Shing-Tseng, founder and first president of the WACP wrote:

“The landmark First World Congress of Cultural Psychiatry, held in Beijing (China), in September 2006, proved the significance and usefulness of having a congress with participants of diverse ethnic-cultural backgrounds from around the world to exchange knowledge and experiences relevant to Cultural Psychiatry. The Congress certainly promoted Cultural Psychiatry, broadening its view and scope, building pan-culture based theory and encouraging culturally competent clinical care in Psychiatry.”

The Second World Congress of **Cultural Psychiatry** was held in the medieval town of Norcia, Italy, from September 27 to September 30, 2009. Its President was Dr. Goffredo Bartocci.

The **Istituto Italiano di Igiene Mentale Transculturale and the Transcultural Psychiatry** Section of the Italian Society of Psychiatry represented the local organizing bodies providing support to the WACP Organizing Committee.

At that Congress, it was shown that it is impossible to understand psychopathology as an entity isolated from the actions of individuals in their cultural-political world. Particular relevance was given to the analysis of the complex problems arising from the relationship between science and faith.

The 3rd WACP Congress, “Mental capital, mental disorders, resilience and wellbeing through the life-course,” held in London, from March 9 to March 11 2012, represented, in the most appropriate location possible, the international consolidation of our scientific discipline. London is one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world. Thanks to the hard work of Pr. Kam Bhui and his team, we found scientific rigor combined with fraternal hospitality.

The Conference venue was Queen Mary University of London.

At that meeting we saw that the results achieved by scholars of culture had reached an excellent level of maturity, disclosing a transversal knowledge common to anthropology, social sciences, phenomenology, cross-cultural psycho-dynamics and even neuroscience.

Pr. Goffredo Bartocci described that Congress as "... an event that will undoubtedly turn out to be exceptional thanks to all the helping professionals who are aware that without a cultural approach, any psychological diagnostic and therapeutic activity would stop on the threshold of partiality, if the interpretation of mental disorder is only viewed as mono-cultural."

The Scientific profile of the **3rd World Congress** emphasized life-course understandings of mental distress, resilience and wellbeing, with a particular focus on young people.

In Pr. Bhui's words, "The Congress will be an important opportunity for scholars from diverse academic and practice disciplines to integrate and progress their learning, theorise and disseminate research to the public as well as to each other. The list of topics is broad, challenging and of importance to diverse disciplines, including psychology, religious studies, cultural studies, psychiatry, social sciences, anthropology, political science, arts and the laws, reflecting the complex definitions of culture that underpin cultural psychiatry and its practice and research."

The 4th World Congress of the **WACP, "Global challenges & cultural psychiatry: Natural Disasters, Conflict, Insecurity, Migration, and Spirituality"** will be held in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, from October 29 to November 2 2015. All colleagues interested in Cultural Psychiatry, including non-medical professionals in the field of mental health, as well as those working in the social and behavioral sciences, are welcome to participate.

I extend to you a warm invitation to attend and become key participants in this important phase in the growth of our field. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in this important event, to meet old and new friends, and to work together for the further development of Cultural Psychiatry worldwide.

For further information regarding the Association, please visit the WACP website at: <http://www.waculturalpsy.org>

For further information regarding the 4th WACP congress, please visit the website: <http://www.4wacpcongress.org>

See you all soon.