

Working Group of the Division 17 International Section
“Internationalizing Counseling Psychology: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategic Planning”
Led by Lawrence H. Gerstein & P. Paul Heppner
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This working group will meet during the International Counseling Psychology Conference. The group is designed to further the efforts of a group of professionals and students who have been engaged in a discussion about the history of counseling psychology worldwide and the potential for expanding the profession’s appropriate role and function around the globe. Through a combination of structured and experiential activities workshop participants will assess the strengths and weaknesses of various counseling theories, strategies, and research and training paradigms employed both in and outside of the United States (U.S.) for use with non-U.S. populations. Participants will also discuss the challenges (e.g., honoring indigenous models of counseling and research; applying U.S. models; language barriers; cultural assumptions and biases; collaboration; relevance of training) and opportunities (e.g., experiencing a new culture; establishing new professional relationships; investigating cross-cultural validity) of working in an international arena and with international populations.

Based on these discussions, the participants will begin the process of developing a strategic plan designed to assist counseling psychologists to effectively and appropriately function as scientist-professionals in various cultures and nations around the world. Emphasis will be placed on identifying potential realistic and visionary objectives and actions linked with research, practice, theory, training, policy, and collaboration. Further, participants will begin to conceptualize a plan to enhance Division 17’s involvement in the international arena and Division 17’s contribution to APA’s international agenda. Additional expected outcomes of this workshop include identifying a team of individuals interested in publishing a major contribution in *The Counseling Psychologist* on furthering the internationalization of our profession.