



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF PSYCHOLOGICAL
SCIENCE

FOUNDED IN 1951

Building Individual and Organizational Capacity
in the Asia-Pacific Region

4th International Workshop on Psychological Intervention After Disasters

November 9 – 12 2015
Taipei, Taiwan

Call for Applications to Participate

Deadline for submission of applications: 15 August 2015

Organized by

International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, International Centre of Excellence (IRDR-ICoE)
Center for Applied Developmental Science (CADS)
ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICSU ROAP)

Partners

Jacobs Foundation
Chinese Psychological Society (CPS)
United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)



中国心理学会
Chinese Psychological Society





Target group:

The 4th International Workshop on Psychological Intervention After Disasters is intended for:

- Researchers, educators, and practitioners from across the entire Asia-Pacific region, who have an academic background, primarily in psychology and affiliated fields, and who are interested and experienced in work on disasters
- Psychologists who work with particular target groups, such as children and adolescents
- Young and early career scientists from Asian-Pacific countries

International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS):

IUPsyS is the internationally recognized umbrella organization of about 90 national scientific organizations of psychology worldwide. It works to promote the development, representation and advancement of psychology as a basic and applied science nationally, regionally, and internationally. The main activities of the IUPsyS focus on fostering the development of the science and practice of psychology. For further information see www.iupsys.net.

Location:

The Workshop will be sponsored by the International Research on Disaster Risk International Centre of Excellence (IRDR-ICoE) of Academia Sinica and its partners. It will take place in the city of Taipei at the City Lake Hotel. For information about Taipei please visit <https://www.taipeitravel.net/en/>

Background to the workshop:

This year's workshop is the fourth in the series, after successful workshops in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Reports on the earlier workshops can be found at <http://www.iupsys.net/events/capacity-building-workshops/index.html>.

The focus on the Asia and Pacific region is related to two important facts:

- First, the four billion inhabitants of the region form 60% of the world's population and 41% of the natural disasters around the world occur in this region, frequently causing extensive damage, loss of life, and severe hardship; and



- Second, the majority of countries in this region often lack an advanced infrastructure or responsive rescue systems, and help is typically concentrated on addressing physical and infrastructural devastation with less attention being paid to effects on individuals, especially of psychological adversity.

People need help to deal with problems arising from the loss of close relatives, from significant property and/or environmental loss, from the effects of physical injury, and from other stressors, including the overarching effects of displacement. The effects on psychological health, which can be long-lasting, are known to vary with age and other demographic characteristics, reflecting differences in cognitive capabilities and other resources to deal with the challenges of a disaster. Here the concept of resilience is a potentially powerful asset in understanding responses to disaster: the degree of resilience to stressors depends on both social and individual factors within a particular region, so that it is important to be mindful of the cultural and regional context.

Workshop focus:

The workshop will use international scientific and applied expertise to enable researchers, educators and practitioners of psychological interventions in the Asia and the Pacific gain a better understanding of the causes and improved ability to respond to the mental health consequences of regional disasters. The focus will be on events that have a tremendous negative impact on large sections of the population in the affected area, such as natural catastrophes, technological failure, warfare or pandemics. The workshop will also address a particular group that has been relatively overlooked in this regard *viz.* children and adolescents.

In addition to focusing on the science needed to enhance the relevance of psychological interventions in the Asia-Pacific region, the workshop will also aim at increasing the capacity for sustained theoretical and applied research in the Asia and the Pacific. Its main aims are to:

- present participants with the most recent scientific and applied scientific evidence and knowledge relevant for psychological intervention after disasters;
- show the constraints and opportunities of working with particular target groups, such as children and adolescents;
- provide knowledge for future inclusion in academic programs of psychology;
- help develop a regional network to support continuance in scientific research and training in mental health support following disasters.



The Workshop will use existing IUPsyS experience and its access to international scientific and applied expertise on resilience in the face of stressful and traumatic events to help researchers, educators and practitioners in the Asia and the Pacific increase their understanding of and ability to respond to the mental health consequences of regional disasters.

Previous workshops had a strong emphasis on new genetic insights and especially the role of epigenetic processes in transmitting environmental catastrophes into individuals' lives and development. Similarly, this year the workshop will have a strong emphasis on advanced research designs to analyze multi-level influences on disaster response and evaluate the effect of interventions, with special emphasis on investigations under realistic field conditions. Additionally the workshop will provide the latest insights on resilience against adversities in individuals and families, and how it can be strengthened. Beyond that the faculty represents expertise in longer-term psychosocial consequences of disasters, and in the various ways to reduce disaster risk by intervention at the community level including the planning of a range of social policy measures.



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Convenor:

Rainer K. Silbereisen

Professor

Director, Center for Applied Developmental Science, University of Jena, Germany.

Area of Interest: Development across the life-span in times of social change

Faculty:

Sue-Huei Chen, Professor, Department of Psychology, Taiwan University, Taiwan. Area of Interest: Trauma consequences.

Thomas D. Cook, Professor, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, USA. Area of Interest: Social and behavioral science research methodology.

Abigail Gewirtz, Associate Professor, Dept. of Family Social Science & Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota, USA. Area of Interest: Family prevention/intervention.

Sarb Johal, Associate Professor, Joint Centre for Disaster Research, Massey University, New Zealand. Area of Interest: Psychological and social impact of disasters/emergency management.

Ann Masten, Professor, Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota, USA. Area of Interest: Resilience in face of adversities and disasters.

Douglas Paton, Professor, School of Psychology, University of Tasmania, Australia. Area of Interest: Insights from research on recovery from disasters as lead to disaster risk reduction.



How to apply for the Workshop

If you are interested in being considered for this workshop, please send the following documents without delay:

1. A completed application form; see attached;
2. Your full CV;
3. An abstract of the poster you will present at the workshop - you will be asked to make a short presentation of your poster, which should cover your work and/or research, to the workshop. Your abstract should be no more than 200 words.

Poster format can be found at <http://www.studentposters.co.uk/templates.html>.

Send the above materials via email to: secretariat@icsu-asia-pacific.org or via fax: **+60326917961** to be received no later than **15 August 2015**

Successful applicants will receive the following:

- Letter of Invitation: A formal letter of invitation from the host organization to participants to help obtain visas to attend the workshop;
- Support for Accommodation: Costs will be covered and accommodation will be provided in a hotel.
- Travel Costs: International (basic economy class or equivalent by the most direct route of applicants' work address) and local travel costs will be borne by the organisers