



# **Tenth Annual PSYCHOLOGY DAY at the UNITED NATIONS**

**Promoting Well-Being in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
*Psychological Contributions for Social, Economic,  
and Environmental Challenges***

**United Nations Headquarters Conference Room 4  
New York, New York**

**Thursday 20 April 2017  
3:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Website: [unpsychologyday.org](http://unpsychologyday.org)**

**Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/UNPsychologyDay>**

**Twitter: @UNPsychologyDay  
#PsychDayUN2017**

**Email: [unpsychday@gmail.com](mailto:unpsychday@gmail.com)**

**Co-Sponsored by\*  
The Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations  
and  
The Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations**

*\*See the final page of this program for a complete list of co-sponsors.*

## Welcome to the Tenth Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations!

We are delighted to welcome you to the United Nations for the Tenth Annual Psychology Day. This year celebrates the tenth Anniversary of Psychology Day at the UN and the culmination of advocacy efforts to include mental health and well-being into the UN agenda, demonstrating how psychologists are important stakeholders actively engaged in contributing to the implementation, monitoring, and achievement of the sustainable development goals, particularly SDG 3: Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. The speakers this year will discuss the intersection of psychological science and practice with the economic, environmental and social pillars of the global agenda, showing how inter-connected well-being is to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. We hope this year's program will stimulate your interest in psychological contributions to the UN agenda. To find out about ways to become more involved in this work and related issues, please go to our website: [www.unpsychologyday.com](http://www.unpsychologyday.com).

We are very grateful for the enormous time and effort so many people devoted to organizing this year's conference. First, we would like to thank our Mission co-sponsors, the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations and Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations. We thank the members of the Psychology Day Planning Committee and our dedicated interns (all listed on the last page of this program). Finally, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the all the past Psychology Day Chairs (listed below) who have worked so hard to establish Psychology Day at the United Nations.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Theme</b>   | <b>Chairs</b>                                      |
|-------------|--|--|
| 2016        | From Vulnerability to Resilience: Using Psychology to Address the Global Migration Crisis  | Rashmi Jaipal, Ph.D. & Roseanne Flores, Ph.D.      |
| 2015        | Reducing Health Inequalities Within and Among Countries: Psychology's Contributions to the United Nation's Post-2015 Global Agenda | Neal Rubin, Ph.D.                                  |
| 2014        | Psychology's Contributions to Sustainable Development: Challenges and Solutions for the Global Agenda                              | Lori Foster-Thompson, Ph.D. & Rashmi Jaipal, Ph.D. |
| 2013        | Psychology and Violence in a Global Context: Antecedents, Consequences and Prevention  | Walter Reichmann, Ph.D. & John Scott, Ph.D.        |
| 2012        | Human Rights for Vulnerable People   | Janet Sigal, Ph.D. & Martin Butler, Ph.D.          |
| 2011        | The Role of Psychology in Achieving Universal Access to Education  | Deanna Chitayat, Ph.D. & Mary O'Neill Berry, Ph.D. |
| 2010        | Psychology and Diplomacy: Negotiating For Peace and Human Rights   | Florence Denmark, Ph.D. & Rachel Ravich, Ph.D.     |
| 2008        | Psychology and Social Justice Related to the UN Global Agenda  | Florence Denmark, Ph.D. & Peter Walker, Ph.D.      |
| 2007        | Psychology and Disaster Response   | Florence Denmark, Ph.D.                            |

Sincerely,

Ayorkor Gaba, Psy.D. & Sonia Suchday, Ph.D.  
Psychology Day 2017 Planning Committee Co-Chairs

## **PROGRAM**

### **TENTH ANNUAL PSYCHOLOGY DAY at the UNITED NATIONS**

#### **THEME: Promoting Well-Being in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Psychological Contributions for Social, Economic, and Environmental Challenges**

*In 2015, the United Nations established the target of promoting mental health and well-being as an important global priority, including it in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that outlines the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Psychology Day program considers ways in which theory, research, and practice in the psychology of well-being can increase the welfare of individuals globally to facilitate achievement of the SDGs, and to address the challenges of contemporary social, economic, and environmental systems.*

#### **REGISTRATION**

#### **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Co-Chairs of the Tenth Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations:

**Ayorkor Gaba, Psy.D.**

*American Psychological Association, Senior Project Director, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Department of Psychiatry*

**Sonia Suchday, Ph.D.**

*International Union of Psychological Science, Professor & Chair, Psychology Department, Pace University*

#### **OPENING REMARKS**

**H.E. Ambassador Rubén I. Zamora**

*Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations*

**H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto**

*Former Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations*

## **MODERATOR 1:**

**David Marcotte, Ph.D.**

*Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Educational Services, Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Clinical Training, Fordham University*

## **SPEAKER 1: Environmental Challenges**

**Minu Hemmati, Ph.D.**

*Psychologist and Senior Associate, MSP Institute eV*

Title of Presentation: “Psychology & the Environmental Pillar: Impacts of Environmental Challenges on Well-Being and Contributions to Realizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”

## **SPEAKER 2: Economic Challenges**

**Ann Masten, Ph.D.**

*Psychologist and Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development at the Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota*

Title of Presentation: “Investing in Resilience for the Well-Being of Individuals and Societies”

## **SPEAKER 3: Social Challenges**

**Doug Oman, Ph.D.**

*Psychologist, professor in the School of Public Health, University of California at Berkeley, and President of Division 36 of the American Psychological Association (Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality)*

Title of Presentation: “Spirituality and Religion: Contributions and Implications for Well-Being and the Sustainable Development Goals”

## **SPEAKER 4: United Nations Speaker**

**Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali, M.D.**

*Senior Advisor and Focal Point for NCDs, UN Women*

## **Q&A and DISCUSSION**

### **MODERATOR 2:**

**Neal Rubin, Ph.D.**

*American Psychological Association, Professor and University Fellow at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University*

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

### **RECEPTION**

**Hotel ONE UN**

1 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

**(NOTE: Advance reservations required)**

**TENTH ANNUAL PSYCHOLOGY DAY at the UNITED NATIONS**  
**20 April 2017**

*Co-Chairs, Psychology Day 2017 Planning Committee*



**Ayorkor Gaba, Psy.D.**

Ayorkor Gaba, Psy.D., is a Senior Project Director at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), Department of Psychiatry, a Representative of the American Psychological Association at the UN since 2014 and member of the UN NGO Committee on the Family. She is a Clinical Psychologist by training, specializing in co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder treatment. She was an American Psychological Association Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (MHSAS) Fellow and reviewer for the Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse. Her main activities at UMMS focus on training behavioral health staff working with homeless, criminal justice involved and/or veteran populations, conducting addiction treatment research, and evaluating behavioral health intervention and prevention programs. Her research and clinical interests focus on addiction, family, women and cultural issues in mental health intervention and prevention. Dr. Gaba is also a Visiting Clinical Supervisor at Rutgers University, where she provides training and supervision to doctoral students providing services at Women Helping Women, a mental health providing counseling services to and advocacy for women, teens and young girls struggling with issues related to domestic violence, sexual abuse and trauma. She maintains a private practice. Social justice and cultural diversity are central to her life and work.



**Sonia Suchday, Ph.D.**

Dr. Sonia Suchday is a Clinical Health Psychologist, Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at Pace University. She chairs the US National Committee on Psychological Science at the National Academy of Sciences and is the representative for the International Union of Psychological Sciences at the UN. Dr. Suchday's extensive research experience is focused on a. biopsychosocial correlates of anger and stress; b. contextual factors that influence the experience of anger/stress such as migration to a different country, acculturation, globalization, and poverty; and c. factors such as forgiveness and spirituality which create a buffer against stress and promote well-being. Dr. Suchday has also conducted research on the impact of the 9/11 attacks and the 26/11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Mumbai, respectively. She has participated in a NATO-sponsored workshop on precursors to terrorism and co-edited a book on the proceedings of the workshop. Dr. Suchday has developed multiple educational training programs and partnerships and her teaching experience includes the challenges of working and researching diverse communities, evidence-based therapy, and social and behavioral dimensions of public health.

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## BIOGRAPHIES OF PROGRAM SPEAKERS

(Listed in Order of Presentation)

### OPENING REMARKS



#### **H.E. Ambassador Rubén I. Zamora**

Ruben I. Zamora is Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations for El Salvador. He obtained his Licenciatura en Ciencias Jurídicas (Law) from the University of El Salvador, and his M.A. in Political Science from Essex University, England. Prior to holding the position of Ambassador to the United Nations, he was head of the Political Science Department at the University of El Salvador, and Visiting Lecturer and Researcher at various universities, including San Carlos and Rafael Landívar (Guatemala), Stanford (USA), Wilson Center, Washington, DC, (USA), and Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Notre Dame (USA). Dr. Zamora is a Founder and Board Member of INTERPEACE (formerly WSP-International), Geneva, Switzerland, and President of the Salvadorian Institute for Democracy (ISPADE). He

previously consulted for UNDP on programs in Guatemala, Panama, and Cyprus. He has held numerous political positions in El Salvador, including member of the Legislative Assembly, candidate to the Presidency of the Republic (1994 and 2000), Founder and Vice-President of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), Founder and General Secretary of the Social Christian Popular Movement, and most recently, the United Democratic Center (CDU). He was formerly Ambassador of El Salvador to India.



#### **H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto**

H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto, former Permanent Representative of Palau to the UN, is a public health physician and health administrator who served at the UN 2013-2017. He is an outspoken advocate for climate action, oceans health & sustainability, mental health, tobacco control, and social justice, including breastfeeding for infants, rights of indigenous and other marginalized peoples and human right to water. During the intergovernmental negotiations for Agenda 2030, Dr. Otto, with Dr. Judy Kuriansky, spearheaded the successful effort to include “promotion of mental health and well-being” in the SDGs. Prior to his UN appointment, Dr. Otto was a medical practitioner, a Senator in the Palau Congress and was active in community affairs including

environmental conservation, church activities, youth and sports as well as civil society organizations development.

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### SPEAKERS



#### **Minu Hemmati, Ph.D.**

Dr. Minu Hemmati studied psychology with a focus on clinical psychology, and received her doctorate in Organisational and Environmental Psychology. 1992-1998, she served as assistant professor at the University of the Saarland, Germany, in a department of social psychology and gender studies. Since 1998, she has been working as an independent consultant with NGOs; governments; international agencies; women’s networks; corporations; and research institutions. In 2016, she co-founded the *MSP Institute eV*, an international charitable association based in Berlin, Germany, working on multi-stakeholder processes for sustainable development. Her work includes designing, facilitating and coaching change processes that use dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnerships; leadership development; training and teaching; and research

and advocacy on participation and on gender issues. Minu has wide experience with multi-stakeholder



processes at all levels; facilitating a diversity of meeting formats for small and large groups; international policy making on sustainable development and related issues; local and national level implementation; as well as evaluation in the field. She has published two books and co-authored another, and written over 50 articles, book chapters, and reports. Minu was a Board Member and is now a Senior Fellow of EcoAgriculture Partners, a co-founder of GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, and is serving on the Jury of Swiss Re’s International ReSource Award, and is a member of IUCN’s Commission on Education and Communication. She was instrumental in setting up the SEED Initiative, co-coordinated the Stakeholder Implementation Conference, and recently led the Climate Dialogue project.

Websites: [www.minuhemmati.net](http://www.minuhemmati.net) / [www.msp-institute.org](http://www.msp-institute.org)



**Ann Masten, Ph.D., L.P.**

Ann S. Masten, Ph.D., L.P., is a Regents Professor and the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development in the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota. She completed her doctoral training at the University of Minnesota in clinical psychology with an internship at UCLA. In 1986, she joined the faculty in the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota, serving as chair of this department from 1999 to 2005. Professor Masten’s research focuses on understanding processes that promote competence and prevent problems in human development, with a focus on resilience in the context of high cumulative risk, adversity, and trauma. She directs the Project Competence Research on Risk and Resilience, including studies of

normative populations and high-risk young people exposed to war, natural disasters, poverty, homelessness, migration, and related adversities. Dr. Masten has authored more than 200 publications, including the 2014 book, *Ordinary Magic: Resilience in Children*, published by Guilford Press. She recently co-chaired the Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally for the U.S. National Academies, while also serving on their Board on Children, Youth, and Families and the U.S. National Committee for Psychology. She has served as President of the Society for Research in Child Development and President of Division 7 (Developmental) of the American Psychological Association (APA). In 2014, she received the Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contributions to Developmental Psychology in the Service of Science and Society from APA. Dr. Masten regularly teaches a MOOC through Coursera on “Resilience in Children Exposed to Trauma, Disaster and War: Global Perspectives.”



**Doug Oman, Ph.D.**

Doug Oman, Ph.D., is President of the Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality (Division 36 of the American Psychological Association). He received his doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley, where he is a professor in the School of Public Health, each year teaching a course entitled Public Health and Spirituality (PH281). His research focuses especially on health implications of spirituality, religion, and on related psychosocial factors such as compassion and altruism. Dr. Oman has been principal investigator for two randomized trials of nonsectarian and explicitly spiritual forms of meditation, which were found to foster significant and meaningful gains in measures of compassion, forgiveness, and related constructs. Another focus of Oman’s work has been applying social cognitive theory to

understand how people assimilate spirituality through spiritual modeling. He has also conducted epidemiologic studies discovering that greater religious/spiritual involvement predicted greater longevity, even after adjusting for a variety of potential confounding factors (his 1998 paper, “Religion and Mortality Among the Community-Dwelling Elderly” was awarded the Templeton prize for Exemplary Paper in Religion and the Medical Sciences). Oman has been associate editor of journals that include *Mindfulness* and the *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, and is editor of a forthcoming volume, anticipated in Autumn 2017, entitled *Why Religion and Spirituality Matter for Public Health: Evidence, Implications, and Resources* (to be published by Springer). Personal website: <http://dougoman.org>





**Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali, M.D.**

Dr. Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali is a Senior Adviser at the UN Coordination Division in UN WOMEN in New York. His previous positions include Head of the Health and Human Development Department of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Health Adviser for the Development Policies Division and at the Directorate General for Globalization in France and Adviser to the French Minister Delegate for Cooperation, Development and Francophonie. He worked as a physician and clinical investigator on AIDS vaccine trials, Medical Director for the Luc Montaigner's Center on HIV research and Head of the Outpatient Clinic at the Institut Pasteur in France. He was member of the Board of GAVI Alliance, the Boards of the PMNCH, the Global Health Workforce Alliance, the Global Partnership for Education and alternate Board member of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and AERAS. He has also worked with the NGO “Médecins du Monde” for over 15 years.

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**MODERATORS**



**David Marcotte, Ph.D.**

David Marcotte, S.J., Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist and Jesuit priest, Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Clinical Training at Fordham University. He is a representative for the *Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Educational Services* at the UN. His research interests focus on the psychological dimensions of sustainable development and the psychology of well-being. He has developed *Spiritual Self Schema Therapy*, an empirically supported intervention to reduce substance use and increase self-determination, which has been tested in National Institute on Drug Abuse supported investigations with HIV-seropositive, methadone maintained, injection drug users and HIV-seropositive and seronegative non-injection drug users over 50 years of age. He serves on the board of the *HealthCare Chaplaincy Network, Inc.*, a global, health care, non-profit organization, and is an advisor to *The Character Connection Initiative*, which delivers mindfulness based character development interventions to urban, minority, middle-school students.



**Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D., ABPP**

Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D., ABPP is a Professor and University Fellow at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Chicago and formerly an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also a faculty member at the Chicago Center for Psychoanalysis. Dr. Rubin has been certified as a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology (AACP). He is also a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA, D39 & 52) and the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA). Since 2003 Dr. Rubin has served on the American Psychological Association’s United Nations NGO Team at UN Headquarters in New York City. In this role, he works to contribute to psychologically informed global policies, utilizing research-based psychological information and resources pertinent to the behavioral dimensions of human rights issues worldwide. Dr. Rubin is Pat President of Division 52 (International Psychology) of the APA and currently represents Division 52 on the APA Council of Representatives. He mentors international scholars as a member of Division 39’s Committee on International Relations in Psychology. He also sits on the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s (AAAS) Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR) which promotes the use of science and the work of scientists in the service of human rights. Dr. Rubin regularly publishes and speaks on issues related to international psychology and human rights.

## **Co-Sponsoring Organizations**

### **The Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations The Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations**

American Psychological Association (APA)  
APTMetrics  
Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP) (Meaningfulworld)  
Division 1 (APA) - Society for General Psychology  
Division 14 (APA) - Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP)  
Division 34 (APA) - Society for Environmental, Population, and Conservation Psychology  
Division 39 (APA) – Division of Psychoanalysis  
Division 52 (APA) - Division of International Psychology  
Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Education Services (IMCES)  
International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP)  
International Council of Psychologists (ICP)  
International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)  
Manhattan Psychological Association (MPA)  
New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA) - Academic Division  
New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA) - Division of Women's Issues (DOWI)  
New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA) - Organizational, Consulting, and Work Psychology (OCW)  
OrgVitality  
Psi Chi (International Honors Society in Psychology)  
Psychology Coalition of NGOs Accredited at the United Nations (PCUN)  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) (APA Division 9)  
World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP)

## **Psychology Day 2017 Planning Committee**

***Co-Chairs:*** Ayorkor Gaba and Sonia Suchday

### ***Sub-Committee Chairs***

***Administration:*** Walter Reichman and Janet Sigal

***Finance:*** Nelida Quintero

***Logistics and Mission Outreach:*** Janet Sigal

***Program:*** David Marcotte

***Publicity:*** Richard Velayo and Teresa Ober

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Judy Kuriansky  
David Livert  
Corann Okorodudu  
Rachel Ravich

Neal Rubin  
Norma Simon  
Peter Walker

### ***Interns:***

APA: Lu Dai, Jiani Liu, Sara Ivette Merced, Binh-An Nguyen, Bharathy Premachandra, and Sowmya Thakur-Kshtriya

ICP: Negar Fatahi, Luke Lawson, and Krystal Lozada

IAAP: Alexandra Margevich and Joel Zinsou

IUPsyS: Zsuzsanna Feher and Natasha Grujicic

SPSSI: Lindsey Blevins, Sherry Cheng, Michelle Herrera, and Gina Roussos

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

The APA Office of International Affairs, Amanda Clinton, Ph.D. (Senior Director), Sally Leverty (International Assistant), Bryan Lyle (Sr. Web Developer, APA) and Teresa Ober (Administrative Assistant, APA NGO). The United Nations Psychology Day logo developed and donated by Dr. Rachel Ravich (SPSSI) and Mr. Eli Rosenbloom, 2010