

# 2008

## ECPA Newsletter



### ECPA Newsletter

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## Introduction

### Dear Colleagues and Friends of Community Psychology

Welcome to the April 2008 Newsletter of the European Community Psychology Association (ECPA).

We are just in between ECPA's last European event, the International Seminar entitled "*Integrating New Migrants in the new Europe: A Challenge for Community Psychology*" in Seville (please see the article by Alipio Sanchez Vidal below) and the International Conference on Community Psychology in Lisboa in June, which will attract colleagues from many countries in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australia/New Zealand (please see special column on ICCP2008 in this newsletter).

It is amazing, how alive and vibrant Community Psychology in many countries is today. And, if we look at global developments, the concepts and visions of community psychology seems to be even more important for local, regional and the global community. Therefore, ICCP 2008 in Lisboa will be a unique opportunity to meet, share ideas and develop visions and perspectives for a community psychology that matters to the world we live in. We would like to invite all of you to participate actively not only in the many ICCP workshops, seminars, talks and other events, but especially in the events sponsored by ECPA and others. Please find also enclosed in this newsletter a preliminary plan for ECPA's General Assembly, which will take place on June 4 in Lisboa (venue tba).

ECPA's Executive Committee has established a good and regular working structure. As a member of ECPA you may participate by using the newly opened JISC-mail-server by David Fryer.

We would also like to encourage you to participate actively in the Community Psychology Interest Groups to be set up, and in the next ECPA newsletters by sending announcements, papers and comments to one of the ECPA Executive Committee members below.

In the next newsletter, published in three months, we – hopefully with your active participation – will discuss recent and future developments of community psychology in Europe, including first reports and comments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICCP in Lisboa.

We have realized that the map on the cover of the newsletter does not fully cover all of Europe. This does not mean that ECPA has a somewhat restricted view of Europe. We will make sure that we will have a more appropriate map in the next newsletter and for the ECPA-website.

We hope to see many of you in Lisboa and we would like to wish you a wonderful community psychology springtime in Europe

Many greetings

Wolfgang Stark (President ECPA)  
David Vossebrecher (Treasurer)  
David Fryer (President-elect)  
Bruna Zani (Member-at-large)  
Nicholas Carr (Member-at-large)

## Call for Community Psychology Interest Groups

Join an Interest Group - and be updated and inspired to continue working within your main field of interest

For members of ECPA, colleagues and professionals who share an interest in Community Psychology, this is a new possibility to participate and discuss your special interest. The following contains all you need to know about an Interest Group for Community Psychologists, including an outline of the concept and practical guidelines for participating.

By forming virtual groups of colleagues who have common interest in a specific topic, we aspire to strengthen and develop both this topic and each Community Psychologist who joins the group. Such core activity will be in line with the main goals formulated by the ECPA General assembly of 2007 (see Newsletter #1).

There are several means by which one can communicate or "meet" in an Interest Group. Using internet or simply e-mail have been common ways of running active interest groups. When information and electronically stored data is shared, it normally implies a respectful and ethical behaviour among the people involved. We need to regulate communication in ways that ensure safety of data without hindrance to those who can benefit from sharing. The ECPA will be responsible for publishing "Ethical guidelines" for running Interest Groups, and other regulations applying to participants sharing files. This includes restrictions and rights concerning copyright and publishing. Members will then be submitted to such regulations.

### What is an Interest Group ?

Several types of information may be valid for sharing: research data, papers, outline for scientific articles, abstracts, internet sites to relevant literature etc. Because we all work in different contexts, it is recommended that participants state their intention of sharing information and what request for comments they have.

Different levels of specialisation, interdisciplinary, or synthesis of knowledge may be shared among colleagues with a common interest or background. Researchers, project managers, clinicians and teachers can benefit from participating. By simple means a colleague can gain access to valuable feedback on their research, engage in peer reviews, or be informed about the development within a topic in other countries. Community Psychologists may use a group to develop common ideas, share new perspectives, publish as co-authors or join projects within prevention.

In order to develop our ideas and stimulate discussion these Community Psychology Interest Groups (CPIG) will play an important role between European meetings and Conferences. The groups may serve as active and independent arenas for maintaining and promoting knowledge within our common purpose.

### How to set up an Interest Group

To set up an Interest Group the subject needs to be registered and approved by ECPA. This is simply done by e-mailing the coordinator and receiving a list of members for that particular group. The means of communicating is best decided upon by the members of each group, whether it be by e-mail, or other internet-based ways of helping a group to communicate. Groups can be open to professionals and students alike (regardless if you are a member of ECPA or a non-member), and anyone can propose a topic for sharing experience, projects, research, or discussion. Groups are limited only in the sense that members are committed to working for the best interest of the group. A particular group may on request from ECPA be asked to make information available to other members.

### List of subjects with respective contact persons

We have received proposals for Interest Groups on the following topics:

Title	Contact person
1) <i>Prevention of Child abuse and neglect</i>	
2) <i>Poverty</i>	
3) <i>Migration</i>	
4) <i>Women issues</i>	
5) <i>Community Critical Psychology</i>	David Fryer
6) <i>Suicide prevention</i>	Nicholas Carr

Usually the person who proposed the topic for an Interest Group will function as a contact person for that group, unless the group decides otherwise.

The General Assembly will be responsible for accepting the initiatives of all Interest groups, and the process that emerge around these topics. Please contact our coordinator, Nicholas Carr, or any member of the Executive committee with ideas on how to run an interest group, or any practical advice that can be of help to organising groups during the coming period. We will facilitate the communication with colleagues who share the same interest.

The ECPA General Assembly should approve of all topics as directed towards relevant future questions in Community Psychology, or being of importance to our principles of participating and empowered future societies.

A proposal of a 'Community Critical Psychology' interest group by David Fryer can be found below.

If you wish to propose a topic, or join one of the above groups, please write an e-mail to our coordinator, Nicholas Carr.

Nicholas Carr  
Coordinator of Interest Groups  
ECPA Executive Committee  
[nicholas.carr@helse-bergen.no](mailto:nicholas.carr@helse-bergen.no)

### Proposal for a 'Community Critical Psychology' Interest Group

I am proposing the establishment of an ECPA Community Critical Psychology Interest Group. What is Community Critical Psychology? One possible answer is that it is a version of community psychology which includes the four components identified by Ian Parker as characterizing critical psychology. According to Ian Parker these are:

- “Systematic examination of how some varieties of psychological action and experience are privileged over others, how dominant accounts of ‘psychology’ operate ideologically and in the service of power;
- Study of the ways in which all varieties of psychology are culturally historically constructed, and how alternative varieties of psychology may confirm or resist ideological assumptions in mainstream models;
- Study of forms of surveillance and self-regulation in everyday life and the ways in which psychological culture operates beyond the boundaries of academic and professional practice;
- Exploration of the way everyday ‘ordinary psychology’ structures academic and professional work in psychology and how everyday activities might provide the basis for resistance to contemporary disciplinary practices.”  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical\\_psychology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_psychology))

Ian Parker is a key speaker on “The tensions between critical and community psychology” at the 2008 UK Community Psychology Conference which will take

place at the Craiglockhart Campus of Napier University, Edinburgh, Scotland on 18th and 19th of September. For further details of this conference please see: <http://www.pacarras.net/CP2008.html>

If you are interested in finding out more about critical approaches to community psychology, you might enjoy two linked symposia on “International manifestations of community critical psychology” which I am convening at the II International Conference of Community Psychology in Lisboa in June.

The presenters and their titles are: Ibrahim Makkawi. (*Palestine*) (*Psychology of the oppressed: encounters with community psychology in Palestine*); Mohamed Seedat (*South Africa*) (*20 years of community psychology in South Africa*); Joaquim Coimbra & Isabel Menezes (*Portugal*) (*Society of individuals or community strength: Community psychology at risk in at risk societies?*); Paul Duckett & Ilana Mountian (*England & Brazil*) (*The politics of community psychology in practice*); Carl Walker (*England*) (*Depression and globalisation: The personal representation of a political problem*) and David Fryer and Adele Laing (*Scotland*) (*Community Critical Psychology in theory and praxis: disabling practices*).

If you are interested in hearing more about this proposal please email me.

David Fryer  
ECPA President Elect  
[d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk](mailto:d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk)

## European Community Psychology before the diversity mirror : Reflections from the Seville Seminar

by Alipio Sánchez Vidal<sup>1</sup>, University of Barcelona

Below I gather together some impressions and opinions on the International Seminar entitled “*Integrating New Migrants in the new Europe: A Challenge for Community Psychology*” ([www.migrantintegration.org/seminar/](http://www.migrantintegration.org/seminar/)) which took place in Seville, Spain, 19-21 September 2007, organized by (members of) the Department of Social Psychology of the University of Seville and sponsored by the *European Community Psychology Association*. I also include a few ideas and proposals about community psychology, its internal relationships and its potential contributions to understanding and dealing with migration, issues upon which the Seminar provided opportunities to critically and constructively reflect. Though stimulated by contributions at the Seminar, I am responsible for the impressions, opinions and proposals which follow. I wish to thank Manuel García Ramírez and his team for the ambitious nature of the meeting and the challenges put to us. I also wish to thank the Seminar participants for the richness and socio-cultural breadth of their contributions.

Two aspects of the Seminar deserve criticism: the definitional dominance of the Seminar by North American approaches and the tendency to submerge the social problem of migration in a sea of methodology (Mills) and thus to reduce social science to an awkward caricature of natural science (Roszak). This was evident in the university-filtered bias of the research contributions towards preoccupation with methodology and away from intervention and role-related dimensions of migration.

### Conferences, science and power

The predominance of keynote speakers from the United States, culturally unfamiliar with Southern European or Spanish realities, and the use of English as the exclusive language of the Seminar provoked a lively debate regarding power relationships within Community Psychology and the domination of the field by North-American approaches. Given that keynote contributions were intended to establish the perspective and focus of the Seminar, many participants questioned not only the validity of concepts, values and methods generated in the USA for understanding and dealing with migration (or any other issue) in Europe, especially at its southern edge, but also the appropriateness of this happening in a “scientific” meeting intended to forge a distinctively European (rather than North or South-American) approach to problems of migration.

Let it be clear that is not the presence of our North-American colleagues and friends nor whether their contributions were interesting which was in question, but rather the pertinence and validity of contributions from North America within the European socio-cultural context and the risk (increased by their positions as keynote speakers) of the inhibition of the establishment of a distinctively European position on migration, one of the reasons for this meeting, whose function was not just to exchange scientific knowledge, find solutions of community problems and promote social interaction.

In short what is in question is:

(a) The *pertinence* or ecological validity of concepts, values, methods and approaches generated in one context or society to another and the pretence of “universality” which they frequently enjoy when they are implicitly or explicitly used to understand or operate in other social contexts.

(b) The *connection* of such materials with *cultural and political systems of domination* (or, at least, of asymmetric relationships) that export given ways of approaching and answering questions as better or more desirable than others, when actually there is a choice—decisive for social development—to be made by each community in view of its specific situation.

How should this tricky issue be approached? What are the “solutions” to these problems? Below I offer some orienting ideas.

1. As community psychologists we should be *sensitive to differences in power*, and to relational asymmetries, *incorporating power into our analyses* fulfilling the sensible requirement of political validity. If power is a key variable in understanding and changing any social phenomenon, it also has to be used in analyses of our own congresses, which apart from being scientific and technical gatherings are forums marked by the same competitiveness and struggles over power and prestige which characterise higher education and social life in general nowadays. A fact as well known as power is being ignored in current social analysis.

2. As Europeans we must be equally sensitive to power differentials and relational asymmetries in our *relationships* with our Latin American and African colleagues where we can be accused of being part of a colonial system. We have to *avoid paternalism*, giving voice to others so they are able to express themselves in their own terms (concepts, values) and views (ap-

<sup>1</sup> Alipio wishes to thank David Fryer for his help with the English language version of this report.

proaches and methods). That should not prevent us, however, from *sharing* our own methods, values and concepts *with others*, putting whatever part of our methods, values and conceptions *they* may find useful and valid at their disposal. I believe that the key here is to strike a fair balance between offering what may be helpful to those who need and desire it and avoiding implicitly imposing our own ways of thinking and doing on them.

3. If we reject *conceptions, values, and methods* from other continents as inappropriate at least in part, we should develop our own which are more appropriate for our own social reality and community life. In the case of Europe this will most probably need to be pluralist. Also, of course, speakers in public meetings must voice those positions together with those of others, but without being assimilated into them. The principle of *reciprocity* and some kind of *relational fairness* must regulate exchanges among community psychology colleagues even if those principles do not hold in the relationships at other more macro-social (cultural, economic, political, etc) levels.

4. The issue of political-cultural *dominance* in the field of community psychology (as in any other) will *not be solved* just by being polite or by using positive concepts or adopting inclusive positions (which of course are also important in a relatively minor field like Community Psychology). When there are real *differences of power* or actual conflicts, positive approaches will just delay, soften or avoid conflict, rather than settle it. I think that it is as bad to avoid conflict when it exists as it is to create conflict which does not exist.

### **Immigration and CP: Possible role of practitioners**

Several valuable contributions were made during the Seminar regarding the relationship between Community Psychology and migration: recognition of the relevance of power and its differences (verbalized in the concept of psycho-political validity), cultural sensitivity to others, research — or action-research — experience with migrants in Italy, Spain, the US or other countries, etc. I now tentatively outline some basic functions that community psychologists may have in working with migrants.

1. *Researchers* who gather comprehensive or explanatory knowledge about migration and migrants (almost the only function exemplified in the Seville Seminar, though that did involve action-research).

2. Qualified *mediators* between migrants and the local formal systems on the one hand and the “community” (or its organized counterpart) on the other: associations, informal groups and organizations, etc.

3. *Consultant-informers* on local “realities”, both formal (laws, political system, local institutions, etc.)

and informal: associations, values and codes for understanding the community and relating with others, community life, etc.

4. *Social advocates-activists* who—together with other collectives or groups—contribute to improve wellbeing and empower (promoting organization of migrants) and protect their rights in the medium and longer term: change of migration laws, access to housing and work, reduction of wages and social discrimination, etc.

Although some of the functions (such as mediation) imply a position of neutrality, the work with migrants requires both an *ethical commitment* to the weakest and neediest (as a part of a commitment to social justice) and careful *technical work* that takes into account strategic difficulties associated with the field: prejudices and stereotypes (“immigrants come to take our jobs and to use our services”, “they are a danger for our security”, etc.); the pressure of the local majority, those that are like us and pay us for our work; the tendency to preserve our material welfare and not to share it with others; the self-satisfaction of white Christian middle classes with their accomplishments and their need to feel a moral and cultural superiority over the “poor” and unfortunate coming from far away and over their social habits and customs; ensuing paternalism and patronizing attitudes towards them, etc.

### **The challenge posed by immigration**

What theoretical and practical challenges are posed to Community Psychology by migration? What has Community Psychology got to offer to the understanding and wellbeing of native and migrant populations or, at the least, to reducing tensions between them and helping mutual integration? Some suggestions follow.

1. We need a wider, *more inclusive concept of community* whose centre is *belonging* (not membership, a soft, insipid substitute) and being accepted as a person without having to give up what is our own and the significant difference. This requires that Community Psychology “metabolizes” diversity conceptually and operatively and gives up any requirement of homogeneity that may remain out of romantic concepts of community generated in the XIX century for different types of societies and that implies shifting to a more complex and difficult notion of the communitarian which poses new theoretical and practical problems which need to be explored.

2. It also seems necessary to *rescue* and put to work ideas of *fraternity* and *empathy* towards others on the basis of what is human in all of us, confirming our fundamental community. That can be operationally achieved through facilitating face to face *inter-*

actions between locals and migrants in conditions which maximize the probability of positive results (ensuring those conditions should be one of our main tasks) beyond prejudice and stereotype (which signals the need to work with the media, which create and disseminate them, in order to dissipate collective fears which those prejudices frequently reflect).

3. "Apply" to migrants the notion of *empowerment*. How? Thinking of them as subjects of power rather than (only) objects of charity and facilitating the means and spaces they need to get *organized* around common objectives (*their* objectives, not ours) which they themselves define.

4. From a strategic point of view we must not take *differences* as given and irreversible but, rather, as departure points (or opportunities) for working with them and finding solutions by acting as mediators between those in conflict.

5. To rescue the idea of *human development* as a central goal of community work and remember that: (a) the 'other' (the migrant) has the potential to develop as a person through the opportunities that a new life and positive, harmonious relationships with local

community members facilitates; (b) to be real, our human development depends on the development of others since we can not reach full humanity without keeping fair, satisfactory relationships with those around us ... unless we erect a big cynical wall of selfishness around us which isolates us from our community or world neighbours (which is what television or obsessive consumerism do in a way); (c) contact with other humans is a potential source of mutual *enrichment* which we should not reject.

As can be seen from the above, social justice, survival and dignity are (together with human development, community, diversity and shared power) the values underlying the community psychology approach migration. As far as *social justice* is concerned, migrants are the new proletarians that bring global injustice and inequality, of which we are, inevitably, part, to the door of our houses so we can not ignore it and look the other way. In a sense, migrants put a mirror before us which forces to look at ourselves and the whole social reality in a very different light, illuminating, among other things, the huge gulf of social injustice over which our whole social and community life is built. That is unjust.



## 2ICCP Conference in Lisboa : ECPA Activities and Announcements



The Community Psychology Event 2008 in Europe!

Well known community psychology speakers, scholars and practitioners and community activists will meet participants from many countries in Europe (west – central – east), the Americas (north – central – south), Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Please participate in this unique

opportunity to meet community psychologists from dif-

ferent cultures and diverse backgrounds in wonderful and charming Lisbon, Portugal.

Experience the fascinating diversity of community building and responsibility for society and social issues. Contribute to the power of community psychology in Europe!

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Community Psychology, June 4-6 in Lisbon, Portugal** will be a major event in Community Psychology around the world. The organizers received more than 500 abstracts from many parts of the world submitted as plenary sessions, workshops, roundtable-discussions, posters and pre-conference institutions. For further information see [www.2iccp.com](http://www.2iccp.com).

Because the conference not only should be a meeting of professionals and activists in community psychology, but also an opportunity for student exchange, ECPA as a co-sponsor of the conference especially wants to support students to meet each other.

We also would like to thank the organizers in Lisboa and elsewhere for the terrific job they are doing to prepare this huge event.

Therefore, please notice the two announcements:

### Call for Support at the Venue

During the busy conference days, many volunteers, colleagues and students will be occupied with planned work at the Lisbon Conference. Some of them have been pre-occupied for months in advance with planning and preparations.

Please note the following if you wish to be of any help to the organizers:

We would like to appeal to all those it may concern to be available at the Conference, for the organisers, Maria Vargas-Moniz. Please give her notice that you are available by e-mail *before* you arrive in Lisboa, at what times/days, and leave your mobile tel. number with her: [mariavargasmoniz@gmail.com](mailto:mariavargasmoniz@gmail.com).

As participants we all like to be of use, and to enjoy our stay in Lisbon. Here is your chance to combine these two goals: being of practical help, AND... We are thinking of such assistance as: giving information, counting participants, arranging meetings, finding persons etc. Also chairing a meeting in the absence of others, any way of being of practical help to the organiser - which is not already covered by students or others.

Who knows - maybe these practical tasks will also increase the outcome of your stay? What if you as a participant will experience an even more meaningful conference?

For the ECPA Executive Committee  
Nicholas Carr, Norway



### **Announcement of ECPA Student Travel Grant to come to Lisboa**

To support student participation in the 2nd International Conference on Community Psychology (2ICCP) in Lisboa, ECPA offers two **Student Travel Grants** in the amount of € 150,- each.

Applicants have to be engaged in Community Psychology research and/or practice and should preferably not be able to afford participation otherwise.

Applications have to contain a 1-2 pages of description of the applicant's interest and involvement in Community Psychology research and/or practice and to include the applicant's CV. Applicants do not need to be ECPA members. **Application deadline is May 4th 2008.** Please submit applications to David Vossebrecher ([david.vossebrecher@uni-koeln.de](mailto:david.vossebrecher@uni-koeln.de)).

For the ECPA Executive Committee  
David Vossebrecher

## **ECPA-sponsored events at the Lisboa Conference**

### **Community Psychology Education: Prospects for Incorporating International Perspectives**

The Community Psychology Program Directors of SCRA together with ECPA will facilitate a special roundtable discussion on community psychology education. The goal of this ECPA/SCRA sponsored roundtable is to facilitate discussion about (1) how community psychology programs might incorporate international perspectives and issues into their educational missions and practices, and (2) perspectives of international community psychology programs to enhance exchange of students, teachers and community psychology approaches. Each participant on this international panel will share experiences and lessons learned from their own programs and settings. Panelists will highlight – as they see fit – successes, opportunities, challenges and aspirations for building educational programs that aim to prepare students to join the international community of community research and action. Panelists will be encouraged to reflect on

the ways that their own national contexts might shape the goals and foci of internationally focused educational efforts. We anticipate that issues of student and faculty recruitment, program structure, curriculum, opportunities for practica/internship, funding, etc. will be discussed.

The discussion will be facilitated by Mark Aber (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US). Participants will be Holly Angelique (Penn State U, US), Elvira Cicognani (Università di Bologna, Italy), Kelly Hazel (Metropolitan State U, St. Paul, US); Susan McMahon (DePaul University, Chicago, US), José Ornelas (ISPA, Lisboa, Portugal) and Wolfgang Stark (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany) and more from other parts of the world.

Wolfgang Stark  
ECPA President  
[wolfgang.stark@uni-due.de](mailto:wolfgang.stark@uni-due.de)

### **International Community Psychology – Lunch Meeting of Officials of Community Psychology Associations and Delegates Community Psychology Networks**

ECPA wants to invite representatives of national community psychology associations or psychology associations and delegates from national/regional community psychology networks for a lunch meeting on **June 6 (lunch time, venue tba)** to meet, exchange ideas, and visions. We would hope to establish continuous collaboration and working relationships in order to foster community psychology concepts with a European and global perspective.

If you are representing a (community) psychology association or network **please join us** to share ideas how to collaborate and to support each other in fostering the idea of community psychology on June 6 for lunch – a prior notice to the ECPA president will be helpful for planning.

Wolfgang Stark  
ECPA President  
[wolfgang.stark@uni-due.de](mailto:wolfgang.stark@uni-due.de)

## Inside ECPA : Executive Committee Announcements

### The ECPA discussion list is set up

I have set up a discussion list for ECPA using JISCmail and, as the list administrator, have added email addresses of all paid up members as subscribers to the list. The list is free for ECPA members to join and use. Membership is according to email address added (not by name) so if you have more than one email address and wish to be able to access the ECPA list from all of them please send me the email addresses you want adding. The list automatically archives posts as they come in so is a convenient way for records of discussions to be preserved. You can look back at previous posts on any subject discussed. There are many uses of the list from using it to inform each other about e.g. funding opportunities to enhancing participatory democracy.

If you are an ECPA member but have not been invited electronically to join the ECPA JISCmail discussion list, please contact me by email and I will add you as a subscriber.

14 email addresses of ECPA members given to me by David Vossebrecher have been flagged up as problematic by JISCmail so have not been added. Please contact me if your email address is one of the following:

DEPICCOLI@BRACHETTO.PSYCH.UNITO.IT; THETH-@T- BGELLI@ILENIC.UNILE.IT; JPAMARO@NET-CABO.PT; MONA.NIELSEN@SKEDSMO.KOMMUNE.NO; MARIT.CHRISTENSEN@SUT.NTNU.NO; ODDFRID.SKOMPE.TENNTJFORD@SUT.NTNU.NO; GKARIN.BERENTZ@C2I.NET; CRAMER@THRM.EDU; CAROLAMESSINA@HOTMAIL.COM; BOU@BG-F.MAGWIEN.GU.AT; ONLINE.DE; NASLUND.ICY@UN.ORG; FLORIAN.OUERFURT@GMB.DE; ARIPFEIFFENBERGER@HOTMAIL.COM

David Fryer  
ECPA President Elect  
[d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk](mailto:d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk)

### Development of the ECPA journal

With a view to establishing an ECPA journal and with the agreement of the ECPA Executive Committee I have begun discussions with Libertas Academica a publisher of open access scientific, technical and medical journals under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Libertas Academica journals are rigorous peer review journals in which readers can access whole articles online completely free of charge as soon as they are published. A fee is usually paid by the author's employer or sometimes the fee is waived.

For more about Libertas Academica please visit: <http://la-press.com/contact.php> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libertas\\_academica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libertas_academica).

The Publisher & Managing Director of Libertas Academica has expressed interest in such a journal. If you are interested in hearing more, please email me.

David Fryer  
ECPA President Elect  
[d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk](mailto:d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk)

## Institutional Membership : Ideas and Current State of Discussion

Discussions among the members of the Executive Committee brought up the idea to introduce the possibility of institutional membership to ECPA, i.e. that institutions, organisations etc. can themselves become members of ECPA.

The following sums up the ideas of the Executive Committee so far and is to be understood as an information on an ongoing discussion. Any comments and ideas by members are most welcome, esp. if there are experiences from other associations, you may be involved in. All decision on introducing a form of institutional membership to ECPA are to be made by the General Assembly on the meeting in Lisboa in June.

According to the statutes ECPA has one overall form of membership open to "any natural person or legal entity"; the three categories of membership fee are *Full*, *Student*, and *Unwaged*. As far as we see, no legal

entities but only natural persons are ECPA members yet.

Goals of introducing the Institutional Membership are:

- The national Community Psychology Associations in Europe can gain a clear membership status.
- Other institutions, agencies, organisations, corporations, or companies (e.g. research centres, university units, service institution in various fields, etc.) can become members and support ECPA.
- Thus ECPA might increase its number of members and strengthen its financial basis.

Institutional Membership is open to all institutions "involved in activities furthering the aims of ECPA and whose objectives are not in conflict with the aims of the Association". Institutional Membership itself does

not provide special benefits to individual persons who belong to the member organisation. The Fee for institutional members is suggested to be 100,- Euro per year. The member institutions do not have a vote in the General Assembly, only natural persons are allowed to vote.

Institutions' benefits in being a ECPA member are:

- Networking, support, and community building within European scene of Community Psychology.
- Access to information, to exchange, and to discussion in many forms such as the ECPA journal, mail-list, newsletter, interest groups.

- Supporting an association that is promoting and living Community Psychology values and principles in Europe.

I would like to point out again that this is a proposal on the issue of institutional membership, and that comments and suggestions are welcome. A detailed proposal on Institutional Membership will be prepared for the next GA by the Executive Committee. Please address all ideas and comments on this issue please to David Vossebrecher.

David Vossebrecher  
ECPA Treasurer  
[david.vossebrecher@uni-koeln.de](mailto:david.vossebrecher@uni-koeln.de)

## **ECPA General Assembly 2008 in Lisboa**

The General Assembly of the European Community Psychology Association (ECPA) will take place on **Wednesday, June 5, 2008 at 6 pm (local time) in Lisboa, Portugal** (special venue t.b.a.).

We would like to invite all members of ECPA and – as guests - all people interested in the work of ECPA

to participate in the General Assembly. The General Assembly will take place according to the ECPA statutes, which can be found on the website (<http://www.ecpa.pt/documents/statutes.pdf>). The preliminary agenda will be like follows.

### ***Preliminary Agenda for the ECPA General Assembly in Lisboa, June 2008:***

Part I:

- Welcome Participants
- Register Members – Apologies
- Minutes of the last GA (Seville 2007)
- Annual Work Report of EC on 2007/2008 (president)
- Financial Report and Membership Report on 2007/2008 (treasurer)
- Regional/Country Reports (if available)
- Other Issues
- Discussion

Part II:

- Institutional Membership - Regulations
- Community Psychology Interest Groups
- Nomination Additional Member for ECPA Executive Committee
- ECPA Plans for 2008/2009
  - ECPA Plans for 2008/2009 ECPA Open Access Journal
  - CP International Education
  - CP European Conference/Summer Schools
  - International Networking in CP
  - Community Building in Europe (?)
- Discussion
- Other Issues/Announcements

Wolfgang Stark  
ECPA President  
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## Miscellaneous

### New Book Publication

#### Community Psychology : challenges, controversies and emerging consensus

The classic monograph by Jim Orford is published in a new edition

This completely new text, which follows the author's 1992 book *Community Psychology: Theory and Practice*, provides an up-to-date view of the vibrant and challenging field of community psychology. The concepts and the practices that are covered range from those that derive from the more radical critical and liberatory approaches to the subject too those that are more familiar in health, social and other branches of psychology. The book engages with a number of controversies such as conflicting ideas about appropriate sources of knowledge, what is meant by social

position and its relationship with health, the value or otherwise to the field of social capital, and the reconciling of participatory and experimental approaches to research. It steers a way amongst the controversies that abound, seeking in the process to achieve a consensus.

*Community Psychology: challenges, controversies and emerging consensus* by Jim Orford. Published by John Wiley & Sons, January 2008. Available now 482pp 978-0-470-85594-2 paperback price £34.99.

### Call for contributions

#### Community research: from theory to method

Book edited by Dr Lisa Goodson and Dr Jenny Phillimore

*This is a call for contributions to a book being edited by Dr Lisa Goodson and Dr Jenny Phillimore from the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Birmingham. If you would like any further information or if you have any questions, please contact me by email or by phone on 0121 414 4967*

- Deadline for abstracts: 2nd May 2008

In recent years the importance of participatory research approaches has increased and methods employing community researchers have become more commonplace. Community researchers can bring new dimensions and perspectives to research questions and problems as they can gain access to hard to reach communities and gain insider knowledge about social life within those communities. However, the use of community researchers raises a range of questions about the quality of data and subsequent findings. Whilst the method has been employed by both academics and practitioners in fields such as health care and urban and regional studies, there is a dearth of knowledge and a lack of documented accounts and information relating to the approach.

This book intends to bridge a major gap in knowledge by considering both theoretical and practical issues relating to community research methodologies. The use of community researchers raises a whole range of epistemological, ontological and methodological questions as well as practical concerns e.g. who can be a researcher? How can one ensure reliability? How can rigour be safeguarded? And to what extent do these issues matter? How can the community research process be managed?

We have received interest from a major publisher to produce an edited book that will address some of the key methodological issues around community research. These will include:

- The rationale for adopting a community research approach; The epistemological, ontological and methodological concerns related to the use of the approach;
- Practical issues;
- Ethical considerations;
- The impact of a community research approach on findings;
- The interpretation of community research findings.

We welcome abstracts which address one of the key themes outlined above. Papers concerning other topics relating to community research will also be considered if they enhance the methodological understanding of the approach. Case studies will only be considered if they clearly explore one of the philosophical, theoretical or methodological issues around community research outlined above. Abstracts of maximum 400 words are requested by Friday 2nd May 2008.

Please return your submission to:

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