

A Curriculum Collaboratory for Internationalizing Counseling Psychology

Mark L. Savickas  
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine  
Rootstown, OH 44272-0095

Paper presented in F. T. L. H. Leong (Chair),  
*A model curriculum for internationalizing counseling psychology*  
Symposium at the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the American Psychological Association  
Toronto, Canada      August, 2009

As part of the project to formulate a model curriculum for internationalizing counseling psychology the project team is building a website devoted to the curriculum and associated resources. The website is being developed at the University of Southern Mississippi and will be housed in the Center for Multicultural Psychology Research at Michigan State University. The website is being crafted to foster the evolution over time of the model curriculum through input and interaction of the international community of counseling psychologists. The centerpiece of the website is a collaboratory.

A collaboratory is a center without walls used by scholars at many sites to interact as they conduct research and reflection. To date, most collaboratories support scientific research, instrument development, and data sharing. While currently being used for research, such collaboratories hold great promise for curriculum development and evaluation projects. The collaboratory concept is emerging as a way to use communication and computing technologies to overcome barriers imposed by distance and time to create a virtual community of counseling psychologists engaged in internationalizing counseling psychology.

In the curriculum collaboratory, faculty around the world will be able to comment on internationalizing counseling psychology, make suggestions, and add resources (e.g. upload their syllabus from their courses). In this way, counseling psychology faculty around the world will be able to create, share, and comment on each others' curricula as well as collect data and conduct research a wide variety of curriculum development initiatives.

The goals of the collaboratory are to (a) create a single place for sharing information about internationalizing counseling psychology– including manuscripts, documents, powerpoint slides, videos, and audiotapes; (b) invite international colleagues to join a community of counseling psychologists interested in internationalizing their curricula, and publish electronically articles about internationalizing counseling psychology through curriculum development.

The website and collaboratory will offer seven types of materials to support internationalizing the counseling psychology curriculum.

## **1. Faculty Development Resources**

### **General curricula**

Moraine Park Technical College. (2009) Internationalizing curriculum.  
<http://www.morainepark.edu/pages/1053.asp>

Wylie, M. (2008). Internationalizing the curriculum: Framing theory and practice in international schools. *Journal of Research in International Education*, 7, 5-19.

### **Specific to counseling psychology**

Leong, F. T. L., & Ponterotto, J. G. (2003). A proposal for internationalizing counseling psychology in the United States: Rationale, recommendations, and challenges. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 31, 381-395.

Marsella, A. J., & Pedersen, P. (2004). Internationalizing the counseling psychology curriculum: Toward new values, competencies, and directions. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 17, 413-423.

Ng, K.M., & Smith, S. (2009). Perceptions and experiences of international trainees in counseling and related programs. *International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling*, 31, 57-70.

Turner,-Essel, L., & Waehler, C. (2009). Integrating internationalization in counseling psychology training programs. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 37, 877-901.

### **Reports**

Brief reports that highlight activities used by programs to internationalize their curriculum and extra-curricular activities

### **Internet Forum**

A message board for counseling psychology faculty and students interested in posting their ideas and experiences with internationalizing the curriculum

## **2. Materials for International Students in Counseling Psychology**

These materials will provide international students in counseling psychology with information about counseling psychology in their home countries. Marsella and Pederson (2004) suggested that for these students some curricula have a feeling of unreality and the psychologies of their homeland are either devalued, ignored, or misunderstood.

Ng and Smith (2009) reported a study of perceptions and experiences of international trainees in counseling programs. They conclude that counseling students seem to experience cultural adjustment problems and conflicts with Western understanding and approaches to treating mental health. Furthermore, they reported that doctoral students experiences greater difficulties that did masters students.

One example of such materials is the IAAP journal special issue on counseling psychology around the globe. Edited by Leong and Savickas, this issue includes detailed articles describing the practice of counseling psychology in 12 countries.

Leong, F. T. L. H., & Savickas, M. L. (2007). International perspectives on counseling psychology. *Applied Psychology: An International Review*, 56.

### **3. Announcements about international initiatives of global interest, scope, relevance and applicability.**

Three examples of such initiatives are the Erasmus project, the IAEVG competencies, and a policy institute.

The Erasmus Project will create quality guidelines and a standard counseling curriculum in 35 countries. It has been funded at a half million dollars over the next three years commencing October 1, 2009. Erasmus Mundus is a worldwide cooperation and mobility program that aims to enhance quality in higher education and promote intercultural understanding.

The International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance has initiated a counselor licensing program based on their International Competencies for Educational and Vocational Guidance Practitioners, first published in 2003.

The International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy seeks to facilitate policy learning through the international exchange of knowledge and information concerning public policy and career development issues. It is supported by the European Union, the World Bank, and OECD.

### **4. Identify international journals relevant to counseling psychology.**

This section of the website will identify relevant international and national journals.

#### **International**

*International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling*

*International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance*

#### **National**

*Counselling Psychology Quarterly* (England)

*Australian Journal of Career Development*

*British Journal of Guidance and Counselling*

*Career Designing: Research and Counseling* (Lithuania)

*Counseling: Giornale Italiano di Ricerca e Applicazioni* (Italy)

*L'Orientation Scolaire et Professionnelle* (France)

*Perspectives in Education* (South Africa)

*Revista Psychologica* (Portugal),

## **5. Provide links to newsletters of counseling professional organizations and home pages of relevant institutions**

IAAP Division (16) of Counselling Psychology Newsletter

International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance Newsletter

The EuroGuidance Newsletter - Euroguidance is a network of National Resource Centres for Vocational Guidance in 32 European countries.

Canadian Career Development Foundation Newsletter

OECD Career Guidance Policy Review Home Page

## **6. Announce important books authored by non-American scholars**

Athanasou, J.A., & Van Esbroeck, R. (Eds.) *International handbook of career guidance*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Collin, A., & Patton, W. (Eds.). (2009). *Vocational, psychological, and organizational perspectives on career: Towards a multidisciplinary dialogue*. Rotterdam, the Netherlands: Sense Publishers.

Maree, K. (2007). *Shaping the story: A guide to facilitating narrative counseling*. Pretoria, South Africa: Van Schaik Publishing

Martin, P., Cheung, F., Kyrios, M., Littlefield, L., Knowleds, M., Prieto, J., & Overmeir, B. (Eds.). (2009). *International Association of Applied Psychology Handbook of Applied Psychology*. Wiley-Blackwell.

## **7. Promote research laboratories**

This section of the website will encourage formation of international laboratories for counseling psychology research. Research laboratories are an attractive venue for organizing international research cooperatives because researchers can collaborate in conducting studies without regard to physical location by using the internet to interact with colleagues, access instrumentation, share data and computational resources.

The Counselling Psychology Division (16) in IAAP was instrumental in launching a Career Adaptability Laboratory that now has partners in over a dozen countries.