

Advanced Research Training Seminars 2018: A new ARTS model

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The Advanced Research Training Seminars (ARTS), co-sponsored by the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP) and the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), is a workshop that has taken place every two or four years since 1992 in conjunction with major international congresses of psychology: the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, the International Congress of Applied Psychology and the International Congress of Psychology. The aim of the ARTS is to promote scientific research and scholarship skills by providing training in research methodologies in addition to knowledge about specific content areas of psychology. Until 2014, ARTS consisted of 2-3 independent seminars held, each lasting from two to three days. The topics selected for ARTS were diversified. Some of them focused on methodology (e.g., Qualitative Research Methods in ARTS 1996, organized by Marta Young from Canada and Alistair Ager from the UK) while others focused on a specific topic of psychology (e.g., Social-Cognitive Neuroscience in ARTS 2010, organized by Shihui Han & Yina Ma from China).

Since the inception of ARTS, the IAAP, IACCP and IUPsyS provided funding to support the program. However, IACCP announced in July 2012 its withdrawal from the ARTS, and IUPsyS did the same in the fall of 2013. Despite the loss of two main partners and sources of funding and support for the ARTS, IAAP decided to continue offering the ARTS.

At the beginning of 2015, a working group was created, consisting of Richard Griffith, Jérémy E. Lemoine and José M. Peiró (Chair) to review the ARTS. The work group proposed a different model for ARTS 2018.

The new model of ARTS is based around four main components:

1. **Research:** ARTS participants work on a project with their peers in groups of three to five people. Team projects are defined and led by the team leaders and consist of the creation of a research study on a specific topic.
2. **Presentation:** Teams will present their team project at a symposium during the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) 2018.
3. **Learning:** Participants have the opportunity to follow several online seminars on general topics (e.g., global collaboration, funding applications).
4. **Feedback:** During ARTS, participants have the opportunity to present their own research (poster) and to receive feedback from their peers and team leaders.

The ARTS committee was created at the beginning of 2017. It is comprised of Richard Griffith, Jérémy E. Lemoine, Jesse R. Caylor, Kayla Bigerton and Mina Milosevic. The ARTS committee was responsible for the selection of the candidates, the organization of the webinars and events and support for the ARTS participants.

Six ARTS team leaders were selected on the basis of their experience and the feasibility of their project. The topic area and anticipated student interest were also considered with the aim to have projects that were diverse and representative of different domains of applied psychology.

Twenty-two students were selected on the basis of their experience and motivation. Their country of provenance was also considered with the objective to have students from various continents and countries. All selected students received their first or second project choice.

In May 2018, the six teams started to work on their project via distance communication. ARTS was held on the June 24th and 25th, 2018. Unfortunately, four students could not come to ICAP 2018 due to Visa or personal issues. Therefore, ARTS 2018 was composed of 28 participants including six team leaders and the four members of the ARTS committee. Figure 1 displays the distribution of ARTS participants by country. The two-day workshops allowed teams to meet prior to their project proposal presentations at ICAP (see photo taken in the ICAP in Montréal, 2018, below). Following ICAP, the six teams pursued their project. The six project proposals are presented in this edition of the IAAP Bulletin.

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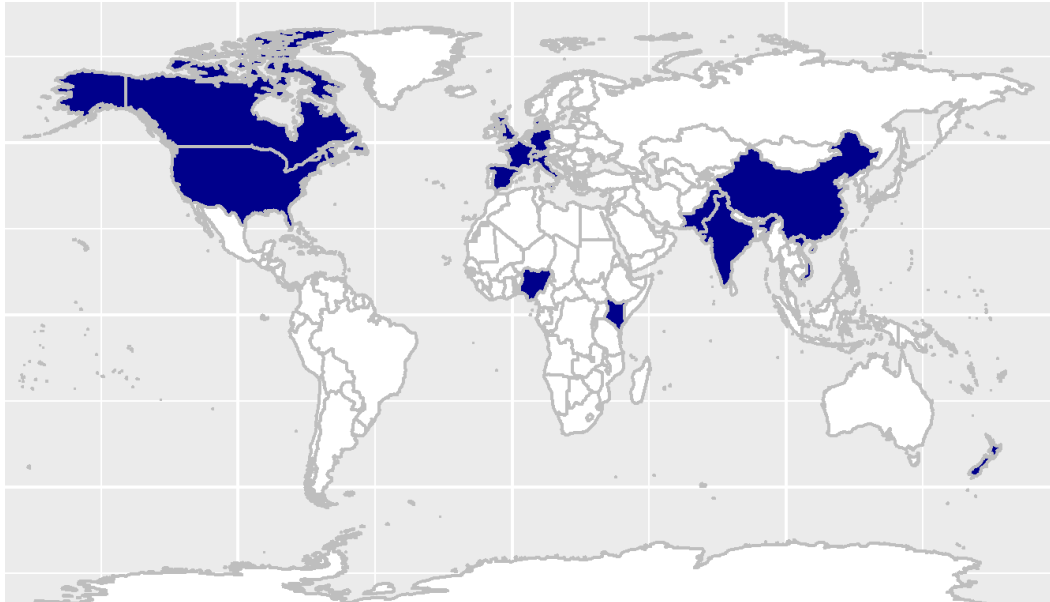


Figure 1. Distribution of ARTS participants by country

The first project is conducted by Maya Pilin, Laura Seidel and Si-Chu Shen under the supervision of Stefano De Dominicis. It looks at factors which influence physical activities and is entitled “Individual and Social Factors Influencing Physical Activity through a Multicultural Lens: A Self-Determination and Social Identity Perspective”. The novelty of this project rests in its investigation of both individual and social factors in the prediction of physical activity, whereas previous research studies only focused on one or the other.

The second project, “Multicultural approach to the study of mental health literacy and myths on trauma and catastrophes”, is led by Clara Gesteira and conducted by Martina Speck, Rayna Sadia, Haziq Mehmood and Samantha Chan. It describes that increasing literacy linked to mental health can help people cope better when facing traumatic situations. This project aims to investigate an underresearched area of psychology: the myths associated with trauma following disasters and catastrophes whether natural (e.g., earthquakes) or provoked by mankind (e.g., terrorist attacks).

Led by Winnie W.Y. Yuen and carried out by Bukola V. Bada and Quynh-Anh N. Nguyen, the third project is entitled “The association of self-compassion, resilience and coping in relation to psychological well-being among youth: A cross-cultural study of Hong Kong, Nigeria and Vietnam”. Anchored in positive psychology, it seeks to investigate how resilience, adaptive coping and self-compassion can increase mental health. In addition, this project goes beyond the traditional Western-Eastern cross-cultural comparison and focuses on three countries with substantial economic and religious differences.

The fourth project, carried out by Laura K. Johnson, Andrea Antoniuk, Amna Noureen and Khadija Misbah and under the supervision of Rajneesh Choubisa, investigates the measurement of mindfulness. Named “Mindful contextualization: Exploring the limits of cross-cultural mindfulness measurement”, this project examines measurement equivalence – a very important research method aspect which should be systematically inspected in cross-cultural research. This project, based on a systematic review, seeks to investigate the measurement equivalence of the Kentucky Inventory of Mindfulness Skills.

Led by Laurent Sovet and carried out by Chiara Annovazzi, Thuy Anh Ngo and Namita Ruparel, the fifth project is entitled “Choosing entrepreneurship: Cross-cultural insights into experiences of young entrepreneurs”. Through the use of interviews, this project aims to investigate how young people studying entrepreneurial skills perceive their experience. The originality of this research is its use of a phenomenological approach to get insights of how an educational experience teaching entrepreneurial skills is experienced by young people.

The sixth and final project is supervised by Morteza Charkhabi and conducted by Laura Seidel, Clément Belletier and Sajjadi Fatemeh. This project, entitled “Development, test and validation of the Triangle Scale of Chronic Job Insecurity (TSC-JI)”, seeks to validate a new measure of job insecurity which takes into consideration both chronic

quantitative and chronic qualitative job insecurity. The novelty of this instrument is to conceptualize and assess job insecurity at three levels: chronic stressor, chronic stress and chronic strains.

These six projects are in progress and aim to be completed by the end of 2019. The next ARTS program will start in Spring 2022 in conjunction with ICAP 2022 in Beijing. The call for team leaders and for participants will start in Fall 2021.

