



Invited Symposium

Psychology in Latin America:

United in diversity to address common goals.

(Definitive version, June 11th)

Presentation

In increasingly challenging environments, psychology—as a science and as a profession—is ever more vital: the pandemic and the post-pandemic have shown how deep and longtime efforts should be done to cope with complexity.

Facing hard times, national associations in Latin America have done significant efforts, collaborating between them and with other institutions, to provide mental health care and supporting their communities. In Latin America, we have drawn on each other's experiences, those of sister associations in the region and globally. We have worked together to build the best resources to cope with the effects of new and global challenges, showing resiliency in the face of adversity. This is an important lesson learned: together we can overcome.

This Symposium will offer experiences developed by national and regional organizations of professional Psychology in Latin America, addressing sensitive issues, from a rights-based perspective with high ethical standards and scientific rigor.

The tour is rich in Psychology and actions: from the Federal Council of Brazil to the Panamanian Association, going through the professional association in Uruguay, landing in a regional cluster such as the Central American Union, and a wider network, such as the Summit of Leaders in Psychology, reviewing 50 years of the Latin American model of Psychology Training, to finally reach the strategic and broad contribution of the Latin American Observatory of Psychology.

The diversity of social needs addressed in this showcase meets with the unity of a regional commitment: empowering Psychology as a key actor in Latin America realities.

Agenda

Introduction and open words.

Psychology in Latin America: united in diversity to address common goals.

Luis Carrizo, invited organizer

Coordinadora de Psicólogos del Uruguay

The Central American Union of Colleges and Associations of Psychology: A Unified Voice for Leadership in the Region

Ana María Flórez

Vice president Unión Centroamericana de Colegios y Asociaciones de Psicología UCCAP

Directora de Relaciones Internacionales de la Asociación Panameña de Psicólogo APP

Advancing LGBTQIA+ Rights: The Role of the Federal Council of Psychology of Brazil in Combating Sexual Conversion Therapies

Pedro Paulo Gastalho de Bicalho

Federal Council of Psychology of Brazil

Fifty Years of the Latin American Model of Psychology Training: Time for a Review

Sonia Carrillo & Karen Ripoll-Núñez

Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia

Social transformations in Latin America.

The importance of international cooperation in Psychology.

Luis Carrizo

Coordinadora de Psicólogos del Uruguay

Contact:

Luis Carrizo (Invited organizer)

E-Mail: luis.carrizo54@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +598 99 637 415

ABSTRACTS

The Central American Union of Colleges and Associations of Psychology: A Unified Voice for Leadership in the Region

Ana María Flórez

Vice president Unión Centroamericana de Colegios y Asociaciones de Psicología UCCAP
Directora de Relaciones Internacionales de la Asociación Panameña de Psicólogo APP

The Central American Union of Colleges and Associations of Psychology (UCCAP) is a new regional organization that unites six countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Its goal is to promote progress and development in psychology in the region. UCCAP was formed through collaborative efforts initiated during the XXXVII Inter-American Congress of Psychology in 2019 with the support of the International Union of Psychological Science and has since gained momentum in addressing shared societal needs and challenges. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UCCAP remains firm in its mission to advance the field of psychology across Central America. The organization is committed to advocating for mental health policies, promoting professional development, fostering research collaboration, and organizing regional events like the First Central American Congress of Psychology, held in Honduras in 2023. UCCAP aims to amplify the voice of Central American psychology on the global stage through strategic partnerships with international bodies and regional collaborations. Overall, UCCAP plays a vital role as a catalyst for unity, progress, and leadership in Central American psychology.

Advancing LGBTQIA+ Rights: The Role of the Federal Council of Psychology of Brazil in Combating Sexual Conversion Therapies

Pedro Paulo Gastalho de Bicalho

Federal Council of Psychology of Brazil

Throughout Latin America and other regions around the globe, the LGBTQIA+ community continues to face numerous human rights violations, including attempts at sexual orientation or gender identity reversal therapies. In Brazil, the Federal Council of Psychology (CFP) has played a pivotal role in advocating LGBTQIA+ rights through key resolutions, notably 01/1999, 01/2018, and 08/2022. These resolutions, affirming the non-pathological nature of homosexuality, transsexuality, and bisexuality, respectively, and prohibiting psychologists from engaging in sexual conversion therapies, stand as crucial instruments in safeguarding the rights of the LGBTQIA+ population. However, they have faced significant legal and legislative challenges,

primarily on the grounds of purportedly restricting scientific freedom. This presentation sheds light on Brazilian psychology's enduring struggles and accomplishments in resisting such challenges. It underscores the pivotal role of the CFP in shaping professional practice regulations in Brazil, the country with the highest number of psychologists globally. Through this examination, we emphasize the importance of ongoing efforts to uphold LGBTQIA+ rights and the vital role of regulatory bodies like the CFP in advancing social justice and inclusivity within psychology. Furthermore, Brazil's experience may serve as a model for other nations, demonstrating how psychology organizations can advocate for human rights, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

Fifty Years of the Latin American Model of Psychology Training: Time for a Review

Sonia Carrillo

Karen Ripoll-Núñez

Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia

The Latin American Model of Psychology Training has been the region's gold standard for psychological education for fifty years. It is based on the scientist-practitioner model and consists of a structured framework that includes a basic science cycle, an applied cycle, and practical experience, often culminating in the completion of a thesis. Our research shows that while there is a growing trend towards competency-based curricula, there are still variations in how these concepts are interpreted. Regulatory advancements across different nations have improved educational standards, with accreditation becoming a primary focus for psychology administrators, indicating a significant improvement in program quality. Despite progress, there needs to be more focus on providing pedagogical training for psychology educators. Psychology programs are mainly housed within Schools of Social Sciences and Health Sciences. Yet, independent Faculties and Schools of Psychology are also common in certain countries, highlighting diverse administrative structures and recognizing psychology as a hub discipline connecting diverse sciences. Educational materials mostly come from sources in the global north. Still, there is a growing tendency to embrace locally or regionally produced knowledge, indicating a move towards "indigenization," although this requires further evaluation. In conclusion, the Latin American Model of Psychology Training, a long-standing cornerstone of psychological education in the region, is dynamic. Ongoing efforts to improve curriculum standards, address training deficiencies for educators, and embrace local and regional knowledge are driving a dynamic evolution within Latin American psychological education. Recently organized efforts by psychology leaders in the region promote a reviewed model as the standard for psychology training for the future in Latin America.

Social transformations in Latin America.

The importance of international cooperation in Psychology.

Luis Carrizo

Coordinadora de Psicólogos del Uruguay

We live in uncertain times, in which the sense of trust, stability and predictability is impacted by dizzying and forceful social, technological, economic, and cultural transformations. These basic feelings are largely defined by the degree of situational stability, which strengthens or weakens the vision of a foreseeable future, but they are also defined by the models of thought with which reality is interpreted.

Additionally, we assist to the proliferation of radicalism, discrimination, and intolerance, as well as the indiscriminate commodification of the notion of development –with deep negative social and environmental impacts–.

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean is the most unequal and violent one in the world, not to talk about migrations, poverty, narco-power, gender violence, corruption, weakness in governance... How can we build trust in the future, solidarity between human beings, a sense of responsible citizenship, a culture of engaged participation, stronger institutions? How can we help to raise a real education for democracy, mutual understanding, and inclusion?

Is psychology prepared to cope with these challenges? Are professionals aware of their responsibility in these scenarios, to work and contribute to deeper understand and transform the world for better?

Psychology in Latin America should recreate its curriculums and its practices, including a transdisciplinary perspective, a complex thought process, and an ethical vision to address such enormous challenges of today, assuming high responsibility to inform public policy.

In this presentation, we claim that, to do so, the existence of regional platforms for collaborative work between leaders and associations of psychology is increasingly important. The cases of the Summit of Leaders in Psychology and the Observatory of Psychology in Latin America (OPAL), among other international efforts, are examples of what the region needs from Psychology. It's time to go further, it's time to go broader.
