

**Advanced Research and Training Seminars  
ARTS 2000  
Interim Report July, 2000  
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This report provides a preliminary overview of the organization of ARTS 2000, and some observations on the process, and problems encountered. The report begins with a reminder of the history, rationale and goals of ARTS.

**History, Rationale and Goals**

ARTS 2000 is the fifth in a series of Seminars that were begun in association with the International Congress of Psychology in 1992, and held in conjunction with subsequent congresses in 1994, 1996, and 1998. A person agreed upon by the international associations (IUPsyS, IAAP, and IACCP) is designated to be ARTS Coordinator. The Coordinators duty is to select Conveners who organize and conduct the seminars. The Coordinator in 1992 was Ype Poortinga; in 1994 and 1996 it was Cigdem Kagitcibasi; in 1998 and 2000 it was John Adair.

An objective of ARTS (according to the ARTS Review Report, April, 1997) is (1) to bring to International Congresses scholars from low income countries, who might otherwise be financially unable to attend. At the root of this objective is the belief that international psychology has a responsibility (2) to promote the development of the discipline of psychology around the world. This is best achieved by providing such scholars with advanced research training (3) to enhance their research and the knowledge they may take back to the colleagues and students within their countries. ARTS provides an almost equally important, but rare opportunity for (4) interaction and shared experiences among colleagues from similar low-income countries.

**Organization of ARTS 2000**

The organization of ARTS 2000 was centrally administered by the Coordinator. The task is too unstructured and there are too many issues simply to be delegated to each convener to learn and manage on their own in such a short time. A manual must be prepared to guide subsequent coordinators and conveners.

Selection of Topics and Conveners. The Coordinator actively solicited persons who would be willing to convene an ARTS. Whereas in 1998 there was only one volunteer, for the 2000 ARTS there were six persons who indicated they would be willing to organize an ARTS. In the selection of topics consideration has to be given to the topics, to ensure they are appropriate for the scholars for whom the program is designed, and that they do not repeat topics of previous ARTS. In the absence of volunteers in past years the Coordinator has adopted the practice of defining appropriate topics and then soliciting a convener for each. Two years ago, for example, work/organizational psychology was identified as an appropriate topic. After 6 months of attempting to identify a convener, a mixture of volunteer- and Coordinator-defined topics and solicited conveners was adopted. Another problem is temporal: Not anticipating many volunteers, there has been no stated deadline for submissions by potential conveners. This mixture of methods and topics, the unpredictability of numbers of volunteers, and absence of deadlines leads to uncertainties in the organization of ARTS and some awkward interactions with potential conveners. Nonetheless, we ended up with top quality scholars with international reputations who agreed to convene each of three ARTS workshops

The topics identified for ARTS2000 were:

ARTS#1: Imaging The Structure And Function of The Brain.

This was identified as an appropriate basic science topic to be held in conjunction with the International Congress. The seminar will be held with 21 participants in Lund, Sweden, under the direction of Jarl Risberg (Convener). This ARTS is specially funded by a grant from the International Council of Science to the IUPsyS and IBRO (International Brain Research Organization). Applications were slow to be received for this ARTS, so that it was opened to psychologists from developed world countries. However the numbers of applicants gradually grew to a considerable number, and with preference to applicants from in-transition and developing countries, all 21 participants come from these low-income countries.

ARTS#2: Psychological Test Adaptations to Diverse Cultures

This is an ARTS organized by the International Test Commission (Thomas Oakland, Convener). The seminar is being held in Stockholm with 16 participants. Independently, Walt Lonner had offered to conduct an ARTS on Measuring Personality Cross-culturally. After some brief negotiation and good will by all, it was decided to offer these two seminars jointly with the ITC seminar being held the first two days, and Walt Lonner convening the final one-day seminar. All participants in this ARTS are to attend both seminars.

ARTS#3: Pathways Across Development: Cross Cultural Perspectives

This ARTS is for 13 participants from 12 different countries that will be held at the close of the Congress. This seminar is convened by Heidi Keller and will be held in Stockholm. This seminar had a larger number of applicants, but several had been to more than one ARTS, or were not otherwise appropriate.

Advertizing ARTS 2000. The ARTS program was advertized by letter to all IUPsyS member societies, and by inserts in International Psychology (APA), the International Journal of Psychology, IAAP and IACCP News Bulletins, and electronic Listservs (IAAP, SIPnet). Announcements were emailed to all departments/institutes in low-income countries using the IUPsyS directory of institutions for their addresses. Promotional material was also disseminated at regional congresses in Caracas, and Durban, and by the Congress organizers in their mailings notifying persons whose abstracts were accepted for presentation in Stockholm. This variety of measures was necessary to inform as many scholars as possible from countries around the world. Even with these methods, many continued to write to us in the months leading up to the congress indicating that they had just heard about ARTS.

Funding. The Coordinator solicited funding by two letters to national associations and societies, as well as from the three sponsoring international associations. Funding was generous from each category of sources (see the attached list of acknowledgments). We sought and obtained funding from some external sources (See ARTS#1 above), and some new psychology associations who previously had not contributed made contributions this year. Virtually every association that has supported ARTS in the past continue to reliably contribute to the program. This is important, because it establishes the program on firm footing that allows for earlier planning and placement of efforts onto other aspects of the program.

Selection of Participants. This year the number of applicants (approximately 150) greatly exceeded the number we could accept (50). Selection and correspondence with participants was conducted entirely by conveners. They accepted participants primarily on the basis of their current research interests and appropriateness for the workshop. This was important to raise the

quality and to ensure the seminars would be meaningful for everyone. Conveners also were told to prefer applicants who were (1) mid-career psychologists (aged 45 and below) or younger faculty, and (2) from a geographically distributed set of countries. In some instances more senior psychologists were accepted because of special fit to the topic.

Geographical distribution of participants was a major consideration. We were particularly successful given the range of countries represented among applicants. The 50 ARTS participants come from 23 different countries. China (8), rather than India (4) as in past years, was the country with greatest number of participants. China did an excellent job of passing the word about ARTS throughout their country. In total, seven countries have three or more participants.

Because the same individuals tend to apply to successive ARTS, prior ARTS attendance was a major consideration in the selection of participants. Persons who had participated in ARTS in 1998 or in more than one previous ARTS were given lowest priority for acceptance. These criteria were relaxed only for a couple of 1998 ARTS participants when the convener convincingly appealed on the applicant's behalf as an ideal fit to the seminar topic.

Financial Support to ARTS Participants. We provided to all participants (a) the seminar and course materials free of charge (b) accommodation for four nights, (c) a per diem allowance for 3 days of the Seminars, and (d) complimentary International Congress registration. In addition, individuals who requested were given a travel allowance (typically about \$1,000 US), that varied depending on their travel distance. Some participants did not request any travel money if they were already sponsored. Applicants were requested to seek other funds for their expenses for any additional travel, accommodation and meals during the congresses, and any other incidental expenses.

Evaluation of ARTS and Final Reports. All conveners have been requested to conduct an evaluation of their seminar, including addressing specific questions about the administration of ARTS and funding. The Coordinator and conveners are also expected to prepare final reports on ARTS 2000 that will be published in the International Journal of Psychology., Coordinator, ARTS 2000

### **Acknowledgments**

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TRAINING SEMINARS: ARTS 2000

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- International Union of Psychological Science
- International Association of Applied Psychology
- International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology

#### Contributing Organizations:

- American Psychological Foundation
- The Royal Society (UK)
- British Psychological Society
- Canadian Psychological Association
- French Psychological Society
- International Council of Science
- International Test Commission
- Japanese Psychological Association

Norwegian Psychological Association\*  
Netherlands Institute of Psychologists\*  
Swedish Psychological Association (Congress organizers)  
UNESCO via the International Council of Science  
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Contributing Institutions:

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