

**ARTS 2002**  
**Report November, 2002**  
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This article reports on the Advanced Research and Training Seminars (ARTS) program that was held in Singapore during July, 2002. The seminars were sponsored jointly by the three international psychology associations --- the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), and the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP).

ARTS is an educational program for psychologists from low-income (developing and in-transition) countries. The seminars are held in proximity to the international congresses each even-numbered year, to enable participants to attend one or more congresses in addition to receiving specialized instruction. Also, it is expected that the educational benefits to participants will extend to their students and colleagues with whom they interact on return to their home countries.

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**Organization of ARTS 2002**

The seminars held in July, 2002 were the sixth in the series of ARTS that have been held since their inception in 1992. ARTS 2002 seminars were planned to address the primary topic focus of each of the co-sponsoring international associations: applied, cross-cultural, and basic scientific psychology.

Selecting Topics and Conveners. The cosponsors (IUPsyS, IAAP, and IACCP) placed the responsibility for coordinating ARTS 2002 with John G. Adair, the person who had coordinated ARTS in 1998 and 2000. The Coordinator's duty was to identify topics and to find Conveners to organize and conduct the seminars. The number of persons who freely volunteered to convene an ARTS (as opposed to those who were asked to convene) has increased over the years. In 1998 there was one volunteer, in 2000 there were six, and in 2002 there were seven people who spontaneously volunteered. In 2002, six additional persons inquired about the convener's role in the ARTS program but did not specify the topic they might have been considering. Some of those who volunteered were not selected to be conveners primarily because their proposed topics did not precisely fit the needs of the program at that point in time. Nonetheless, their professional interest and inclination to contribute to the ARTS program was greatly appreciated. Although proposals from volunteers selected to be conveners define part of the program, the Coordinator completes the ARTS program by selecting the remaining

topics and by balancing topics and conveners. Guided by expressed interest in a seminar on organizational/work psychology, and a need for a basic science topic, the Coordinator actively sought conveners on these topics.

The final ARTS 2002 program consisted of three seminars: (1) the Family: Culture and Psychological Functioning; (2) Emotion and Inter-cultural Adjustment, and (3) Work-Place Safety, Systems Safety, and Psychology. A detailed synopsis of each seminar program is provided by the conveners in summary reports that follow this general report.

2002 Program. The first ARTS 2002 seminar was held in the days immediately prior to the XXV International Congress of Applied Psychology. The two other seminars were held in Singapore in the days following the Applied Congress and before the XVI International Congress of Cross-Cultural Psychology that was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Each seminar met on the campus of the National University of Singapore for three full days of instruction and interaction.

Advertising ARTS 2002. The ARTS program was advertised by letter and web announcements to all IUPsyS member societies, and by inserts in International Psychology (APA), the International Journal of Psychology, Cross-Cultural Psychology Bulletin, and in the electronic Listservs of IAAP and SIPnet. Announcements were emailed to departments and institutes in low-income countries using addresses from the IUPsyS Global Resource CD-ROM directory of institutions. Promotional material was also disseminated at regional congresses in Mumbai, India and Santiago, Chile and by the Coordinator at scientific and professional meetings in Taipei and Beijing. This variety of modes of dissemination was necessary to inform as many scholars as possible from countries around the world. Even with these methods, many continued to write in the months leading up to the congress indicating that they had just heard about ARTS.

This proved to be a difficult year for advertising ARTS. Because the events of September 11 occurred at the usual time for announcement and promotion of the ARTS program, the entire process was disrupted: Some advertising (e.g., International Psychology) was considerably delayed; others (IACCP Bulletin) included the material but in an issue that did not reach many until well into 2002. The Singapore organizers helped by sending the notice of ARTS to persons who had submitted abstracts, but the number this actually reached was likely less than at prior congresses due to decreased abstract submission and planned attendance at the Singapore congress, possibly in reaction to the events of September 11.

On the positive side, with the special assistance of the Union, an extensive advertising campaign targeting least developed countries was conducted in the final months of 2001. Using the Global Resource CDROM Directory, notices about ARTS were faxed to relevant Psychology Departments and Institutes. Applications from "first-time" locations: Ethiopia, Mongolia, Swaziland, and Viet Nam, and infrequent participants such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Thailand, suggested this had been effective, and should be expanded in future years.

Selection of Participants. The overall number of applicants was lower than in previous years. The lack of local funding to support travel meant that the number of individuals actually looking to attend ARTS 2002 was lower than in prior years. For example, applications for ARTS from China (the source of the largest group in 2000), were dramatically reduced in 2002. Special efforts were made to increase this number, but

this only resulted in two participants from China. As in the past, India was the country contributing the largest number of participants. In total, across the three seminars 40 applicants from 19 different countries were accepted to participate.

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 maintain quality and to ensure the seminars would be meaningful for everyone. Conveners also were told to give preference to 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 junior or senior psychologists were accepted because of special fit to the topic.

The lack of previous participation in ARTS was a major consideration in the selection of applicants. Persons who had participated in recent ARTS (1998 or 2000) or in more than one ARTS were given lowest priority for acceptance. Two persons who had been in ARTS in 1996, and one in 1994 were the only participants in 2002 with prior ARTS attendance. These persons were accepted only after the convener had convincingly appealed on their behalf as being an ideal fit to the seminar topic. The fact that these persons were all from the same seminar suggests that similarity of topics with those in prior ARTS may have been a contributing factor.

Funding of ARTS 2002. Solicitation for funding for ARTS proceeded as in previous years. The Coordinator sent two letters soliciting funding to national associations and societies who are members of the IUPsyS, as well as from the three sponsoring international associations. The response was exceptional. Most regular contributors continued to provide assistance in 2002, and it appears as if we added a new association to the regular contributors list: The Norwegian Psychological Association contributed for a second consecutive year. Some of these associations increased the level of their contributions, most notably the American Psychological Foundation, while a couple of others contributed at slightly lower levels. On the other hand, no external grants for ARTS were sought or obtained this year, an issue that will need to be addressed. In addition, with the location of the congress, the diminished number of participants who came fully-funded, and the increasing costs of airfares, it was only barely possible to balance expenditures with income.

There were other complicating factors. For previous ARTS, substantial funding assistance had come from Congress organizers. Because of fewer Congress registrants in 2002, the provision of a Congress registration fee concession across the board to ARTS participants simply was not possible; instead, we negotiated an agreement whereby the Congress scholarship committee made individual decisions on persons (from ARTS or otherwise) who applied for registration concession. Similarly, in Stockholm in 2000, several ARTS participants received scholarship (travel) support from the Congress organizers, thus replacing the need for and thereby supplementing ARTS funding. None of these resources were available in 2002.

However, because of the support of the international psychological community, it has been possible to continue this very successful educational program to advance psychological science around the world. The following organizations and institutions are gratefully acknowledged for their generous financial contributions to ARTS 2002.

Sponsoring Organizations:

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  
Japanese Psychological Association  
Norwegian Psychological Association  
Netherlands Institute of Psychologists  
Singapore Psychological Society (ICAP organizers)  
UNESCO via the International Social Sciences Council

Contributing Institutions:

National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
San Francisco State University, USA: College of Social and Behavioral Sciences - Dean  
Joel Kassiola  
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada: Department of Psychology

Evaluation of ARTS 2002. The ARTS program and seminar instruction were evaluated on the final day of each seminar by means of a questionnaire of Likert and open-ended items. The evaluations, completed by thirty-five participants, provided a wealth of information. For example, responses to a question about how they learned about ARTS provided an assessment of the various strategies that have been employed to advertise the program. Most respondents indicated that they had learned about ARTS from another colleague in their own country (27.1%) — word of mouth seems to be the primary advertising vehicle. The most effective formal methods were newsletter / journal announcements (20%) and Internet sites (16.7%). The faxed\email announcements (13.8%) and IAAP congress organizers (10.9%) were also effective, whereas announcements at national/regional congresses (8.6%), and national associations (2.9%) were the least effective modes of dissemination. Several respondents suggested that we still need to advertise more widely, but did not suggest how this might be achieved.

When asked to indicate how well ARTS met each of its four stated objectives: research training (71.5%), networking with colleagues (65.7%), and likely being able to share knowledge learned with colleagues and students back home (57.1%) were all rated as more well-met than the objective of facilitating attendance at international congresses (45.7%). Nonetheless, 88.5% of respondents indicated they had attended the ICAP and 17.1% additionally planned to attend the IACCP congress which was to be held some distance away. Grants from ARTS for travel assistance to attend the seminar and the congresses was the primary funding source for most participants (60.4%). Additional funding for the trip to ARTS and the congresses came from personal funds (19%), money from their own country (10.5%) and from ICAP organizers (10%). Four participants did not request any financial assistance from ARTS or from the ICAP organizers.

Instruction and organization of the seminars was highly rated: the seminars met or exceeded the expectations of all participants. It was interesting, however, that the topics

of instruction related in a general way (65.7%) to the interests of most participants, rather than exactly to the topic on which they were working (22.9%). Given the impossibility of contacting every person to whom the topic might be precisely relevant, these observations were not unexpected. Fortunately, topics were only tangential or unrelated to the work of a small number of participants (8.6%).

Suggestions for future ARTS. Among suggestions for future ARTS topics, a few discernable patterns emerged beyond the typical suggested need for additional instruction on the topics of the 2002 ARTS: the family, emotions, and work-place safety. The need for seminars on health psychology and mental-related topics were the most common suggestions. As in past ARTS, participants suggested increasing the length of the seminars from 3 to 5 days (an impossibility given limited resources), and more widespread advertising of ARTS. Unfortunately there were no concrete suggestions for how this might be done. Avoiding overlaps between the schedule for ARTS and the days of the congresses was a serious suggestion. The Coordinator always begins with this rule in mind and approaches prospective conveners to book their seminars in the days preceding the earliest congress or in the days following the later congress. However, on occasion the selected convener is unable to accommodate to either date, thus forcing a maximum one-day overlap with one of the adjacent congresses. In 2002, for example, ARTS #2 began on the last day of the ICAP, whereas ARTS#3 began after that congress ended, but concluded on the final day of the IACCP congress.

A participant suggested on the evaluation and followed up by email that ARTS should organize a social gathering or meeting of all ARTS instructors and participants sometime during the Congress. This was proposed as an opportunity for participants who have participated to express their appreciation, and for those who would be participating in a later ARTS, a chance to meet one another and their instructors. Everyone would have the opportunity to interact and share their enthusiasm and ideas for the ARTS program. There might be some value to making it an occasion for the "ARTS alumni" to gather and renew the acquaintances and experiences that were so valued in the past. In addition to the seminar content, networking and interaction of participants from different cultures and countries is an important objective of ARTS, and this suggestion is one way to facilitate achieving this goal in Beijing in 2004.

### **Acknowledgments**

In conclusion, I wish to give warm and special thanks to each of the conveners of ARTS 2002. James Georgas, David Matsumoto, Bernhard Wilpert and Babette Fahlbruch were incredibly dedicated to their tasks, put in many long hours, and were a delight to work with. An indication of their dedication was the fact that each spontaneously expressed the considerable satisfaction they had received from convening the seminar and interacting with their participants. This is important, because no one associated with ARTS receives an honorarium for their contribution to the program. This applies as well to the several instructors who are acknowledged in the report that follows for assisting the convener of the seminar on the Family. International psychology owes a debt of gratitude to each of these persons for their exceptional professional dedication and commitment.

Finally, the Coordinator would like to extend a warm expression of appreciation to Susheel Kaur from Singapore who was truly exceptional in the cooperation and assistance she provided to the ARTS program. All conveners and participants applauded her devoted attention to the program and to all of the details that made it a huge success. I could not have managed the ARTS without her help.

**ARTS2004 in Beijing**

The next round of ARTS will be held in Beijing, China in 2004. Seminars will be planned for the days before the XVII International Congress of Cross-Cultural Psychology to be held in Xi'an, China from August 2-6 or following the XXVIII International Congress of Psychology to be held in Beijing, August 8-13. I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Ingrid Lunt of the Institute of Education, University of London as the new Coordinator for ARTS. I have agreed to assist Ingrid to become familiar with the various tasks involved during her first ARTS. We shall both be the Co-Coordiators for ARTS2004. ARTS has become a fairly complex undertaking and it just may require co-coordinators in future years.