

This panel brings together four leaders in international psychology to lead a discussion hour focused on the topic of the potential for a universal psychology. Panelist Uwe P. Gielen is Professor-Emeritus/Executive Director of the Institute for International and Cross-Cultural Psychology at St. Francis College, and is senior editor/coeditor of 24 volumes that have appeared in five languages. Dr. Gielen contends that to understand human nature, we must study its manifestations across many societies in order to avoid ethnocentric biases. By way of illustration, he will be focusing on child/adolescent developmental psychology, noting that while western children make up less than 10 percent of the world's children below age 18, research on the other 90 percent is largely missing from most American/ European psychology textbooks. He asks: How are developmental pathways shaped by sociocultural practices commonly found in the nonwestern world? Dr. Grant Rich is a consulting psychologist who has recently taught several semesters in Cambodia and India. He will reflect on lessons learned from these experiences in terms of implications for the challenges and benefits of internationalizing psychology. Sherri McCarthy, Professor of Educational Psychology, Counseling & Human Relations at Northern Arizona University-Yuma will offer her views on balancing local cultural/multicultural milieaux, indigenous needs and broader scientific principles in teaching psychology to improve quality of life. Dr. McCarthy is ICOPE Past President and serves on the Asian Psychology Association Board of Directors. Finally, Martha Zlokovich, Executive Director of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology will represent perspectives from this group, including information regarding expansion to various regions/nations around the globe, as well as how chapters in the USA may better internationalize their groups through various activities and publications. As this is a discussion hour, ample time will be allotted for interactive conversation.