



Society for Cross-Cultural Research

July 2010 Newsletter

Dear SCCR Colleagues,

Time marches on. Now it is mid-summer and whether you're working hard or relaxing, I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and content with what you are doing. Thank you to SCCR members who responded to the May 2010 Newsletter's appeal "**Editors need to have something to edit and therefore, I am asking for your help.** Please consider 'publishing' information or ideas that you might have which could enhance or benefit the work of your colleagues in SCCR." For *Newsletter* inclusion, send information to: shwalbb@suu.edu or phone 435 586-7557, 9am to 8pm, Mountain Daylight Time zone.

Also, please look at the photos from the 2010 conference. They can be viewed at the SCCR web home page (www.sccr.org). If you know the people in any particular photograph, please add their names and the title of the paper/poster being presented if it's a photo of a presentation. This is a good opportunity to increase face-name recognition and to learn more about who does what type of research among our colleagues.

Thank you to the friends and colleagues who gave information for our SCCR group and for your comments about the *Newsletter*.

Respectfully, Barb Shwalb, PhD; *SCCR Newsletter* Editor

News of Interest

From Deborah Best, President-elect SCCR, dated June 11.

Dr. Best has finalized the contract with the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina. This hotel will be the meetings' site for the **40th Annual Conference of the SCCR** which will take place February 16 – 20, 2011. The hotel website is www.francismarionhotel.com/ and the room rate is \$139 a night.**

Three people will co-chair the responsibilities for Local Organizing Committee in Charleston. They are Drs. Deborah Best, Brad Huber, and Trisha Folds-Bennett. These are the people who will negotiate everything needed for a successful conference and the ones who will shoulder the blame if things get screwed up. The Local Organizing Committee puts in 1000s of hours of work and they do so voluntarily. They also

demonstrate their commitment to the goals and success of SCCR. Local Organizing Committee, thank you.

Dr. Judy Gibbons has volunteered to chair the Program Committee. Volunteers are needed to fill the Committee. **Can you serve on the SCCR Program Committee?** This committee, after reading everything sent to them for possible inclusion of presentations in all formats, e.g. symposium, paper, poster, etc.; decides what will be presented and what won't be presented, and where and when the presentation will happen. The bulk of your time commitment to the SCCR Program Committee would be in the fall after the deadline for submissions. Two excellent benefits of being on this committee are that you work with other SCCR members and you get a good overview of who is doing what type of research or other activities. Both can be of great personal benefit. Dr. Judy Gibbons can be reached at: gibbonsjl@slu.edu .

By chance, the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition is scheduled to be across the street from our conference hotel from February 18 – 20. In the event tickets are needed for any of their events, the website is www.sewe.com/index.php .

**Editorial Comment. This is a wisdom comment from an old person. It took my husband, David, and I a few years to learn the difference between 'going' to a conference and 'being' at a conference. "Going" was finding the cheapest room in the vicinity, attending a few presentations and having little contact with other conference attendees. "Being" was supporting the conference by staying at the conference hotel, attending sessions daily and having a great deal of contact with other conference attendees. The difference was bigger than the \$35 a night we might save at a cheaper lodging. 'Being' at the SCCR conference is to mental health and mental agility what being at an exercise center would be to physical health and physical agility. 'Being' at the SCCR conference is doing something excellent for yourself. Really, try it and see.

From Dr. Judith Gibbons, former president of SCCR

Exciting news indeed to put you on the fast-track for possible publication! Dr. Judy Gibbons, St. Louis University, has been appointed Inaugural Editor for a new American Psychological Association (APA) journal. The journal, *International Perspectives in Psychology: Research, Practice, & Consultation*, will be accepting submissions starting January of 2011. Also, if you know of an international scholar who would promote the new journal, submissions to the journal, mentor regional scholars and whose English-language ability is excellent, Judy would like that person's name and contact information for possible recruitment to the editorial board. Judy's email is: gibbonsjl@slu.edu.

APA will post information about the new journal, probably at its August national meetings. Thanks to Judy for breaking the story early to SCCR. The journal's mission statement is right up SCCR's alley. It is:

International Perspectives in Psychology: Research, Practice, & Consultation is committed to publishing conceptual models, methodologies, and

research findings to help study and understand human behavior and experiences around the world from a psychological perspective. It publishes intervention strategies that use psychological science to improve the lives of people around the world. The journal promotes the use of psychological science that is contextually informed, culturally inclusive, and dedicated to serving the public interest. The world's problems are imbedded in economic, environmental, political, and social contexts. *International Perspectives in Psychology* incorporates empirical findings from education, medicine, political science, public health, psychology, sociology, gender and ethnic studies, and related disciplines. The journal addresses international and global issues, including inter-group relations, disaster response, societal and national development, environmental conservation, emigration and immigration, education, social and workplace environments, policy and decision making, leadership, health care, and the experiences and needs of disadvantaged groups.

From Dr. William Divale, past-president of SCCR

Attention all master and doctoral students, Dr. Bill Divale, York College; City University of New York; sent the following information about a research/work appointment. Thank you, Bill.

PhD scholarship – Social emotions across cultures

A fully funded PhD position is available in the research group Comparative Cognition Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. The successful applicant will investigate social emotions (shame, pride, fear of ostracism) using a cross-cultural approach, in order to examine similarities and differences across cultural groups in the conceptualization and/or communication of social emotions. The position is available for up to 3 years.

Host Institute

The Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Psycholinguistics offers an exceptional training and research environment for researchers in the communication sciences, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary work. The working language of the institute is English. The research group for Comparative Cognitive Anthropology works closely with the Language and Cognition Group at the institute and provides fully equipped research facilities, field budget, conference travel funds and full technical support. The successful applicant will be supervised by Dr. Disa Sauter (<http://www.mpi.nl/people/sauter-disa>) and Dr. Daniel Haun (<http://www.mpi.nl/people/haun-daniel>). The Max Planck society is an equal opportunity employer.

Requirements

Applicants must have a Masters/Diploma degree (or expect to complete degree before autumn 2010) in psychology, cognitive science, biology or

anthropology. The candidates have to be willing to travel to, and conduct research in remote places. Prior field-research experience is welcome but not necessary.

Application

Curriculum vitae. In addition to details about your work and educational background, please include information about your technical skills, and details about your Masters degree, including the names of your supervisors, date of completion, title of thesis, a brief description of your topic, and any grades received for relevant coursework.

Personal statement. Please provide a statement of interest, expertise, and career aspirations in no more than half a page. Research proposal. In no more than one page, please provide a proposal for a PhD research project. This should give the Selection Committee a basic understanding of your proposed research and methodology.

References. Please provide the names and email contact details of two references.

Applications must be received by August 1, 2010. Short-listed applicants will be invited to an interview, to be held in August/September 2010.

Please send applications to Email: Ina.Grevel@mpi.nl Postal address: Ina Grevel, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, PO Box 310, 6500 AH, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

For more information see: <http://www.mpi.nl/research-projects/comparative-cognitive-anthropology/news/variability/emotions>

For further enquiries, please contact: disa.sauter@mpi.nl or Daniel.haun@mpi.nl. Phone for Disa Sauter, PhD: +31 (0) 24 352 1189.

News of People

It is with great pleasure, respect and admiration that I introduce to you Dr. Ziarat Hossain, the current SCCR President. This is a read you will not want to miss.

Ziarat Hossain - Biographical Accounts

I never thought of featuring myself in the SCCR newsletter. But Dr. Barbara Shwalb, Editor of the *SCCR Newsletter*, was persuasive in her e-mail to me that I should send my brief to her by mid-June. I respect her judgment and hence have decided to write a brief account about myself. I am presenting my biographical accounts in three different sections as follows: (1) The ecology and the family; (2) The aspiring professional; and (3) My professional role within SCCR.

The Ecology and the Family

I was born and grew up in a rural area of central Bangladesh. My village, Sharnakhali, has about 3,000 people and is about 20 miles northwest from Dhaka - the capital city of Bangladesh. My grandparents arranged the marriage for my parents in their late teens. My parents had nine children and three of them died. I am the second child in the family. My mother was nine months pregnant with me when she lost her first child - my four years old brother I never met. According to my parents, he had a high fever just for a few hours and died before our village doctor had time to see him. I was born twenty days later after his death. That's why my grandfather named me "Ziarat." The meaning of my name is "visiting" as my parents are thankful that god has sent back their deceased son to visit them in this world. Nowadays, as I try to understand the pain and joy of my parents, I need to fulfill the responsibilities of two sons. My parents especially my father was very affectionate to us. I lost my father the day my first child, Razine, was born in 2001. Razine is now more than my son as he came into my life to compensate the loss of my own father. My wife, Rozy, is from Bangladesh and our marriage was semi-arranged. We are blessed with a daughter (Ziana, 3) and two sons (Razine, 8; Ryan 6).

My maternal grandfather donated land to build an elementary school in my village. My parents graduated from this school. All of my siblings and I attended this school too. The school compound also provided enough space for us to play soccer, volleyball, cricket, and badminton. My village is built along the natural levee of a river named Kaklajani. I remember that morning or evening walk along the riverbank was a routine and therapeutic exercise for us all. The pristine water of this river provided the villagers with natural resources for sustenance such as water for bathing, cleaning, irrigation, river communication, and fishing. In the backside of the village, there is open land for farming, grassland for grazing, and a small lake for fishing. In the summer months, we could not do anything but studying as the monsoon flood water inundated village roads, riverbanks, and play grounds. We used our small boats to go to school. In the late afternoon hours, we did either fishing or boat racing as play activities. We always had at least 10-12 children played or studied together without any adult supervision. Older children used to supervise the younger ones for learning and safety. On many occasions, someone's grandparents used to hang out with us especially when we played in the backside of the village. In fact, any adult who was out in the field farming or grazing or fishing used to keep an eye on the children playing outside. Growing up in my village, life was very peaceful, secure, predictable, and enjoyable. There was a meaningful cooperation among all people in the village and a lasting bond between human and nature. The mosaic of my natural environment and social mores taught me to be respectful of nature, appreciate spirituality, relate to others, and explore the wild to gain knowledge.

The Aspiring Professional

My father, who could not attend college due to lack of support, encouraged me to pursue modern education. He wanted me to become a medical doctor so that I could help the poor with their health needs. As I indicated earlier, my parents had nine children and three of them died when they were very young. My parents were convinced that access to proper health care could have saved their children's lives. Agreeing with my father's view, I told all of my school teachers that I would become a medical doctor. In order to

receive a good education, I walked about four miles (each way) to attend one of the best high schools in my area. I studied very hard and my test scores were always in the top 1%. My father lost his business when I was ready to enter medical school. I had to abandon my dream of becoming a medical doctor due to lack of financial support. I entered a regular university, majored in geography/population studies, and graduated with distinction. I then had opportunities to join the elite core of the defense services or an executive rank of a private business or the civil services in Bangladesh. However, I was intrigued by many of my university professors' level of academic scholarship, wisdom, and involvement with various community development projects. I thought I could better serve humanity by pursuing a university teaching position. I needed a higher education degree to become a college professor. I left Bangladesh and received a full scholarship to attend the University of Manitoba in Canada. Upon graduation, Syracuse University offered me a full scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. in Child and Family Studies. To my intellectual discomfort, I found that a fair amount of the western conceptualization and literature on family socialization values and practices was largely biased against minority families in the United States. Such a realization persuaded me to conduct research on parent-child interactions with a special emphasis on fathering across cultural groups. My quest for knowledge in human behavior across cultures took me to a post-doctoral training at the University of Miami Medical School in Florida. A year-long Fulbright Fellowship helped me conduct teaching and research on fathering among indigenous populations in Malaysia and Borneo. Prior to joining the Department of Individual, Family and Community Education at UNM in fall 2005, I taught in the Department of Psychology at Fort Lewis College for eleven years. I earned my second tenure at UNM in 2008.

My Professional Role within SCCR

It has been an honor for me to be nominated and elected as President of this fine organization. As President-Elect (2009), I organized its 39th annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this year. We had SCCR, SASci, and AAACIG sessions and had participants from over 20 countries. It was a great team effort with a big success.

SCCR is a growing multidisciplinary organization that offers membership to scholars, professionals, and students. It maintains a scholarly journal named *Cross Cultural Research*. As President of SCCR, I look forward to working with SCCR officers and other relevant individuals to move forward with the following goals:

- (i) Collaborate to successfully complete 2011 annual conference in Charleston, South Carolina;
- (ii) Recruit and retain paid membership especially by attracting students, young scholars, and international participants;
- (iii) Explore ways to broaden the scope of its journal to facilitate more submissions as well as increase readership;
- (iv) Invest more in updating its website including the newsletter.