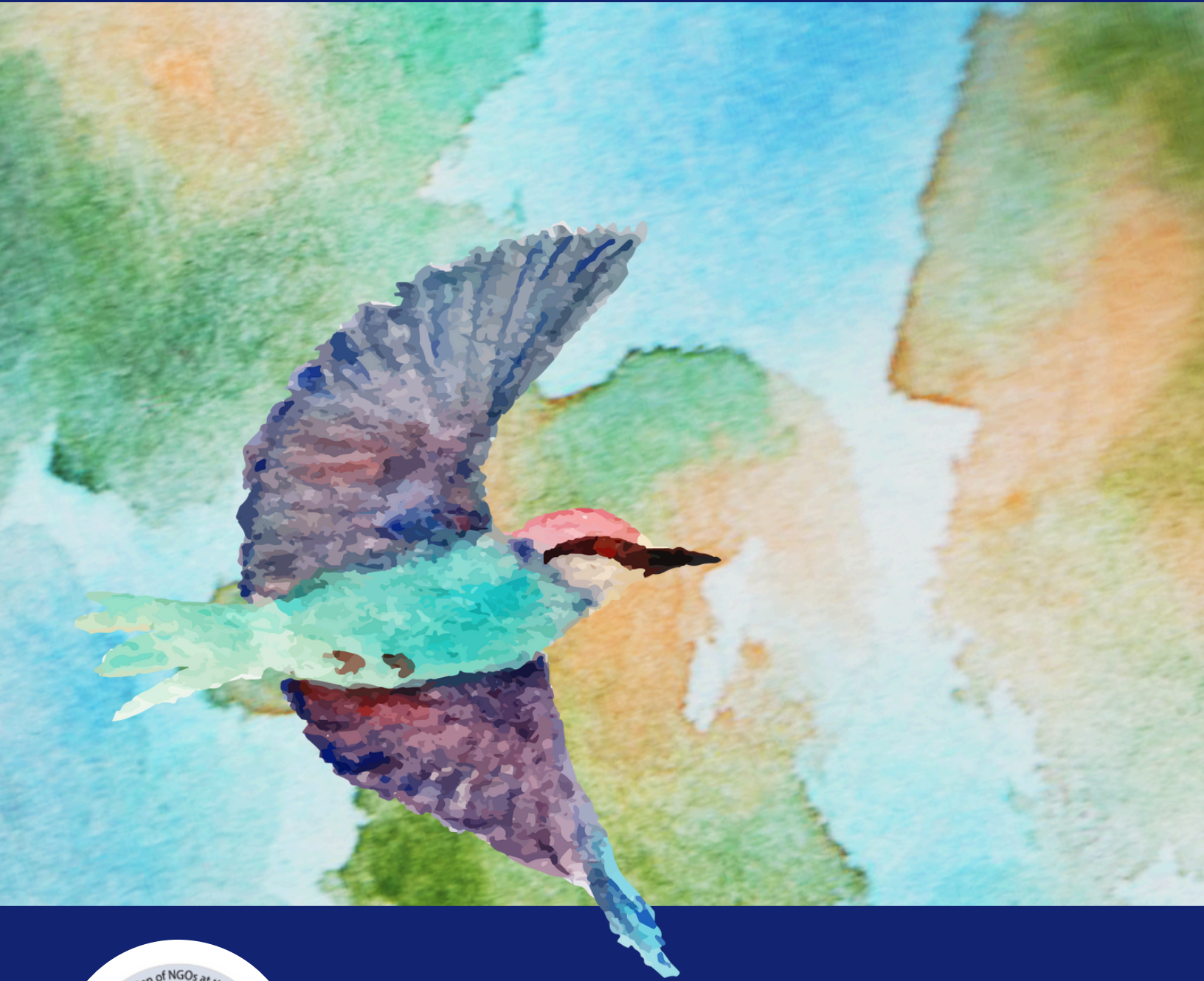


EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL PSYCHOLOGY DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS



APRIL 24, 2025

*From Crisis to Growth: Psychological
Contributions to Building Global Resilience*



PROGRAM

PSYCHOLOGY DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

04.24.2025 | 11.00 AM - 02.00 PM EST

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM | Opening and Introduction

Kalyani Gopal, PhD, PCUN President

Christopher Nguyen, PhD, ABPP, Co-Chair

Sharon Coen, PhD, Co-Chair

11:30 AM – 1:10 PM | Panel

LaRicka Wingate, PhD, Moderator

Kim Pong Tam, PhD, Speaker: Climate Change and Sustainability

Dinka Čorkalo Biruški, PhD, Speaker: Peace and Security

David Luxton, PhD, Speaker: AI and Technology

Ines Meyer, PhD, Speaker: Silenced Voices

1:10 PM – 1:20 PM | Synthesis

LaRicka Wingate, PhD, Moderator

1:20 PM – 1:40 PM | Discussion

Moderator, Panelists, Co-Chairs, PCUN President

1:40 PM – 1:50 PM | Closing Remarks

Kalyani Gopal, PhD, PCUN President

1:50 PM – 2:00 PM | Thank You

Sharon Coen, PhD, Co-Chair

Christopher Nguyen, PhD, ABPP, Co-Chair



CONCEPT NOTE

From Crisis to Growth:

Psychological Contributions to Building Global Resilience

The world today is facing unprecedented challenges that test our capacity for resilience. Crises such as climate change, environmental degradation, conflict, social inequality, and rapid technological advancements are reshaping the global landscape. Addressing these complex issues requires collective action, and the United Nations continues to provide a vital space for nations to collaborate on shared solutions. This year's Psychology Day at the UN's theme, "From Crisis to Growth: Psychological Contributions to Building Global Resilience," focuses on how psychological science can offer valuable insights and strategies to support sustainable development and human dignity, emphasizing the importance of finding unity in diversity.

The Psychology Day 2025 program will feature four distinguished speakers, each representing a key theme and exploring its role in fostering global resilience. The first theme, Climate Change and Sustainability, will address how human behavior, environmental attitudes, and perceptions of nature influence our capacity to harmonize development with planetary survival. A psychologist with expertise in environmental and health psychology will present research on how to create environmentally mindful living settings, which will offer pathways for sustainable action.

The second theme, Peace and Security, will explore psychological approaches to conflict resolution and intergroup dialogue, drawing parallels between human conflicts and our strained relationship with the natural world. A social psychologist specializing in conflict studies will discuss strategies for promoting peaceful coexistence and mitigating the psychological impact of global crises on communities.

The third theme, AI and Technology, will examine the psychological implications of the rapid growth of technology, particularly artificial intelligence. A cognitive psychologist will highlight the role of cognitive biases in AI design, the spread of misinformation, and the potential of technology to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This presentation will emphasize how psychological research can inform the responsible and ethical development of technology to enhance global resilience.

The final theme, Silenced Voices, will focus on the importance of inclusive knowledge-sharing and the need to amplify voices from underrepresented communities. A community psychologist will discuss systemic barriers to participation in global decision-making and the psychological impact of exclusion, while presenting strategies for fostering equity and ensuring that diverse perspectives are included in the conversation.

An expert discussant on resilience will conclude the event, synthesizing the presentations and providing a comprehensive overview of how psychological theories and evidence can be applied to build resilient societies. This synthesis will highlight the interconnected nature of the themes, offering insights on how psychology can inform strategies for overcoming adversity at individual, community, and systemic levels.

Sharon Coen, PhD & Christopher Nguyen, PhD, ABPP



PANELIST



Moderator

LaRicka Wingate, PhD

Dr. LaRicka Wingate is a Professor of Psychology and an affiliate faculty member in Africana Studies at Oklahoma State University (USA). She focuses on Black-centered mental health research, particularly exploring protective factors for African Americans and marginalized groups. Her research examines key aspects such as acculturation, racial microaggressions, historical trauma, racial discrimination, and intersectionality, with a focus on Black suicide and mental health. Dr. Wingate has published over 80 scholarly works in reputable academic journals. She has received several honors, including the 2020 Inspiring Excellence Award and the inaugural Dr. Patricia A. Bell Inclusive Excellence Faculty Award. She also served as the Director of the OSU Africana Studies program from 2014 to 2017 and directed the Laboratory for the Study of Suicide Risk and Resilience from 2006 to 2020. Raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Dr. Wingate earned her Ph.D. from Florida State University and joined OSU's faculty in 2006. Outside of academia, she has been a foster parent and is a wife and mother to two children.



PANELIST



Speaker

Dinka Čorkalo Biruški, PhD

Dinka Čorkalo Biruški is Professor of Social Psychology at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia. Her research interests include intergroup relations in times of war and peace, with a particular focus on the processes of post-war social recovery. By identifying key social influences on children and youth growing up in (post-)conflict communities, she has developed a research program focusing on the role of schools, especially minority education, in the social integration and development of multiple identities of minority children. She teaches courses on intergroup processes, prejudice and discrimination, peace psychology, and ethics in research and professional practice. Dinka was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a visiting research fellow at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame. She has published more than 80 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters and is (co-)author or (co-)editor of 13 books and research monographs. She is a member of the editorial boards of Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology and the Journal of Social and Political Psychology. She is the national representative on the Scientific Committee of COST. She has received several national awards, including the National Scientific Award (2005), the Ramiro Bujas Award of the Croatian Psychological Association (2009) and the Fiat Psychologia Award of the Croatian Psychological Association for her contribution to applied psychology (2012).

PANELIST



Speaker

David Luxton, PhD

David D. Luxton, Ph.D., M.S., is a licensed clinical psychologist and professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. He is also the founder of the AI consulting and development company Luxton Labs LLC and the co-founder of Mentem.lab LLC. He has held several leadership positions in state and federal government service and previously served as a Research Health Scientist at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego, CA, and as a Research Psychologist and Program Manager at the National Center for Telehealth and Technology (Defense Health Agency), Joint-Base Lewis McChord. He also served in the United States Air Force. Dr. Luxton's research and writing focus on advancing innovative healthcare technologies, specializing in artificial intelligence, machine ethics, and telehealth. He has served on numerous state and national workgroups and committees, including those for the United States Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, the American Telemedicine Association, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He has authored six books, numerous chapters, and over 100 scientific articles on AI, emerging technologies, military and veteran population health, and forensic psychology. A strong advocate for responsible AI and behavioral health technology, he consults extensively and has helped to establish state and national guidelines and standards for artificial intelligence and telemedicine.



PANELIST



Speaker

Kim-Pong Tam, PhD

Deeply concerned about the health of both the planet and its inhabitants, Dr. Kim-Pong Tam redirected his research in the early 2010s to concentrate entirely on environmental issues and human behavior. His work focuses on understanding how people perceive their relationships with nature and the emotional and behavioral implications of such perceptions; exploring the role of culture in environmental attitudes and pro-environmental behaviors; and examining human responses to the problem of climate change. He has served in various editorial roles for several environmental and psychological journals. He regularly teaches environmental psychology and the psychology of climate change in Hong Kong and Japan. Additionally, he actively collaborates with and provides consulting services to local and international environmental organizations. He is currently a Professor in the Division of Social Science at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



PANELIST



Speaker

Ines Meyer, PhD

Ines Meyer is Professor in Organisational Psychology at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Her experiences in corporate and community-based organizations have profoundly shaped her academic focus. She applies her discipline knowledge to poverty alleviation and inequality reduction efforts, and to create more humane workplaces. She holds the NRF/DSI South African Research Chair Initiative's chair in Creation of Decent Work and Sustainable Livelihood which champions the idea that the effect on human dignity should guide economic decisions. Her current research areas are living wages, personal initiative mindset training and the working conditions of low-income workers. Amongst others, she served on the Society of Industrial and Organisational Psychology's United Nations committee from Website: <https://commerce.uct.ac.za/workfordecentlives>



PRESIDENT PCUN



President

Kalyani Gopal, PhD

The current President of the Psychology Coalition at the United Nation (PCUN), Dr. Kalyani Gopal is a distinguished clinical psychologist with over three decades of experience in addressing complex issues such as child sexual abuse, human trafficking, and labor trafficking. She is the founder of SAFE Coalition for Human Rights (SAFECHR), an initiative dedicated to supporting trauma patients and victims globally. Dr. Gopal has trained a diverse range of professionals, including foster parents, law enforcement agencies, and government representatives from various countries. Dr. Gopal is the first woman of color and Asian American to serve as President of the Illinois Psychological Association and Division 12 of the American Psychological Association. Her work has garnered international recognition, and she has developed clinical treatment manuals for psychologists in Mongolia, treated grieving families in Myanmar, and created tools for identifying trafficking victims in Ukraine. With a commitment to empowering victims, Dr. Gopal is currently working on establishing SAFE Village – Unnati Sewa, a unique residential restorative model for victims of human trafficking and sexual assault. Her dedication to mental health and human rights continues to inspire and impact communities worldwide.



CO-CHAIR



Co-Chair

Sharon Coen, PhD

Dr. Sharon Coen is an Associate Professor in Media Psychology at the University of Salford. Since joining the University of Salford in 2012, she has been leading the only MSc in Media Psychology program in the UK, working closely with her colleague, Dr. Adam Galpin. Her research primarily focuses on media communication, journalism, and new media, exploring how these elements shape and are shaped by political and social issues. She is particularly interested applying media psychology to address the climate emergency and promote actions to mitigate climate change. She has recently been appointed Director-at-Large at the International Council of Psychologists (ICP). Through her work, she aims to bridge the gap between academic research and practical applications, fostering a deeper understanding of the role played by media in human perceptions and behaviours. Her goal is to continue contributing to the field of media psychology, inspiring positive change and informed action in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.



CO-CHAIR



Co-Chair

Chris Nguyen, PhD

Dr. Christopher Nguyen is an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, where he serves as Director of Neuropsychology in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health and Director of the Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology. In these leadership roles, he advances integrated efforts in clinical care, research, education, and community outreach to promote the health and well-being of older adults. Clinically, Dr. Nguyen provides neuropsychological evaluations and psychotherapy for older adults, with a focus on cognitive aging and mental health. His research explores executive functioning, decision-making capacity, and culturally responsive assessment practices. As a dedicated educator and mentor, he supports the development of trainees at every stage—from graduate students to postdoctoral fellows. Dr. Nguyen received his doctoral degree from the University of Iowa, completed his residency at the Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System, and pursued fellowship training at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.



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