

 [IP--join the APA China Delegation?](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 22]

Dear All,

What are the implications of the APA delegation to China? Shall IP psychologists join, support, or oppose, criticize this strategic move of the American Psychological Association? Let's have a discussion on this topic, and anyone interested in joining the delegation needs to act quickly.

Looking forward to hearing from you,  
Louise

 [Comment by Peter Ping Li](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 22]

Dear Louise:

I am in favor of this delegation. Any exposure to a foreign culture, especially to a culture of such long history and distinction, is an eye-opening experience.

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 [Comment by Scott Churchill](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 22]

Dear Louise,

I agree with Peter.

Let me add that Carol Goodheart was a wonderful APA President (finished her term in San Diego) and these kinds of delegations reflect long periods of careful planning and dedication. As a Council rep I have been very supportive of the APA's international initiatives. So was Mike Arons, when he was still with us.

We in Div 32 have become perhaps too trigger-happy with our criticisms and oppositions to all things "APA" (I say this with a wry smile, not a frown!) -- maybe we need to leave the APA if we find "them" unworthy of our trust. Let's not go public with knee-jerk reactions to every initiative that we catch wind of :- ) -- imagine all the work that has gone into planning a delegation such as this!

I know you were speaking rhetorically, but my surgically-repaired eye still aches from the stresses of this past APA (where my condition worsened to the point of

requiring two emergency surgeries). And it's become my mood barometer! When my eye hurts, it is telling me to back away.

So I will leave the discussion in better hands, but just want to weigh in with my support for this APA delegation.

Scott

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 [Comment by Paul Wong](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 22]

Thanks Scott:

We should replace knee-jerk reactions with reflective and thoughtful responses to anything APA, Positive Psychology or the Medical Model.

[www.drpaulwong.com](http://www.drpaulwong.com)

 [Comment by Scott Churchill](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 22]

Dear Paul,

hahaha! yes I agree...

Please let me take a moment to clarify: Louise and I are the best of friends and I was not really thinking of her message to us as a "knee-jerk reaction" -- and now I see the long list in the cc and realize that not everyone will have an immediate sense of the context that Louise and I share for understanding my comment in its truly humorous light! (She and I have sat through many executive board meetings, and I will just leave it at that. Okay, Louise?) :-))))

Hermeneutics!! the importance of context :)

Yes, knowing Louise as well as I do, her message was calling precisely for what you've described, Paul -- and I also "read between the lines" to her own wry sense of humor in articulating the full range of possible responses, from affirmation to opposition.

I am so ready now for my sabbatical overseas!

(just finished a moment ago the last issue of the journal for the current year and sent it off to press!)

wishing you all well in your personal journeys, as well as in your reflective and thoughtful responses to life's adventures.

Scott

 [Comment by Maureen O'Hara](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 22]

Louise,

I am not sure there any negative implications but it's a seven day trip. If relationships are made that endure, then that could be a good thing. Meeting Chinese scholars/professionals keeps the power balance more even neutral and does not automatically privilege the European view point. Such contacts might provide contexts for serious exchanges that did not start from the Anglo-American framework. Good thing.

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 [Comment by Dharm Bhawuk](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 22]

namaste Louise:

A delegation is often a part of Track II Diplomacy. I am not sure what the intentions are, but it seems to me that we can add value by being on the delegation, rather than by boycotting it. We should also try to find indigenous psychologists in China, Beijing and Xi'an, who should meet with the delegation.

I have other travel plans, and so I will not be able to join the delegation.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Bhawuk

 [Comment by Meng-chun Chiang](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 22]

Dear Louise and all:

Like many of you, I'm in favor of the general attitude of maintaining a "reflective and thoughtful responses" (re: Paul) while suspending my vote for or against the delegation because I don't have enough information regarding "what practical details actually go into APA delegation to China."

Questions regarding the purpose (both politically and realistically) of the delegation,

who decide what constitute the "Cultural norms and the treatment of the mentally ill" (see the flyer) [the issue of norm is a complicated question, especially in China, which is in itself very much culturally diverse], and what and how one arrives at the distinction between "Traditional and modern Chinese approaches to health and mental health," etc. remain unanswered.

I assume (which is perhaps confirmed by Dr. Churchill's response) that APA have spent a great deal of time contemplating, planning, and organizing the delegation, and if this is so, it is likely that APA arrived at these focus areas and discussion topics after some rigorous thoughts. In this sense, since the delegation is a go anyways, perhaps from an indigenous psychological point of departure, we can offer reflective questions (such as ones I posed above), critical thinking, and complimentary alternatives in addition to what comes out of this delegation.

While suspending my vote for the delegation, I'm actually quite interested in what APA is going to say about psychology in China after the delegation. (Nonetheless, I will likely be terribly disappointed if they again arrive at a hegemonic Anglo-centric view of the development in psychology in modern China).

My two cents on a Friday afternoon, ready to walk my dog. :)

Nomaste,  
Meng

 [Comment by Paul Wong](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 24]

I share everyone's concern about the hegemony of American psychology, especially the hegemony of American positive psychology in China.

I would be interested in be part of the delegates if there is no time conflict.

[www.drpaulwong.com](http://www.drpaulwong.com)

 [Comment by Wael Mohamed](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 24]

Dear Louise

Thanks for the note

I would like to be a part of the delegate trip if it is pemissable for Egyptian psychologist

Please let me know the possibility

Thanks

w

 [Comment by Anthony Marsella](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 24]

I wish to raise several questions about this voyage to China:

1. Who is paying? What are the source of the funds?
2. Why China? Are other trips planned to other countries?
3. Is this a junket?
4. What are the actual costs of the trip?
5. Has there been any preparation by the travel group? (e.g., reading Hwang Kwang Kuo's new volume on Chinese Psychology)
6. Who made this decision?
7. If these are APA funds, do they represent the best return against other choices?
8. I do not wish to join, but amidst the pressing challenges of our times, the critical social problems we face, the APA might justify the expenses.
9. Of course, it may just be a money maker by a travel company - these sort of delegations (you pay your own way) are an old technique used to make travelers feel they are representatives .....
10. So I would like to see some details as an APA member, as a cultural psychologist concerned with expected outcomes, and motivations.

Luv, Tony

 [Comment by Scott Churchill](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 24]

You can verify this, but my understanding with each year's APA international delegations is that each person pays his or her own way. These are not junkets. They are intended as good will missions for purpose to educate ourselves about other cultures and how psychology figures into the cultures visited. I cannot tell you the entire history of these ventures, but I can say that I've seen them announced before. The APA has an International Division (DIv 52 I think) and an office in Washington dedicated to enhancing international relations.

You all might check to see what the APA website has to say about their international efforts.

I am sure they are open to input, as they always solicit input from whomever is willing to give it. They are an open organization trying to do good things. Sometimes their efforts or resolutions get twisted beyond recognition by people outside of the organization. We cannot control that. I can just speak for the inherently good intentions of those who donate their time and energy to participate in good will initiatives of the APA and who fund themselves to be part of the delegations to other

countries for purpose of educating ourselves about other cultures and other psychological contexts.

I can ask on your behalf, though I'll be out of the country myself for the next two months on a "good will" mission of sorts (to spread the word of humanistic psychology and qualitative inquiry -- at my own expense -- in Norway and Denmark).

It would be great if some from this group were to contact APA to learn more about this program.

Scott

 [Comment by Wael Mohamed](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 24]

My Dears

You can find answers for some of your Qs by accessing to this web site

[https://res.academic-travel.com/professionals\\_abroad/reservation/index.php?X3E9dmlld19vdmVydmllldyUyRjk2Njg](https://res.academic-travel.com/professionals_abroad/reservation/index.php?X3E9dmlld19vdmVydmllldyUyRjk2Njg)

I am an international liaison for Egypt in div52 and we will organize something to Egypt like this

Keep the good work

Be safe

Wael

 [Comment by Maureen O'Hara](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 24]

A couple of months ago, Carl Rogers: The China Diaries, edited by Jeff Cornelius White, was published by PCCS Books, UK. Rogers was 22 and studying for the Christian ministry when he went as a student delegate to a World Congress of the YMCA in China. His journey lasted 6 months and he kept a detailed diary that had not been published until now. This view of 1920s China (and a little of Japan) through the eyes of a midwestern Christian boy is priceless. The depth of his empathy and passion for social justice is on every page as is his reflection on his own privilege.

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 [Comment from Michael H. Bond](#) by Louise S. [2012, Aug 24]

Peter is right! this has always been my rationale for immersing my psychological work in Chinese culture, at least for the first three decades of my cross-cultural adventure.

related to this recently proposed delegation is a much earlier delegation [around 1978?] of American psychologists to China [one commented on the absence of left-handers in over 500 primary students they observed!]. it would be fun to dig out those earlier "travelers' notes", wherever they are, and share them with this next generation of "China discoverers"...

Peter, it was good to see you at AoM, my first time to attend this conference,

your colleague in the "China adventure",

michael