

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND CONSTITUTION

Artículos de Incorporación de la Sociedad Interamericana de Psicología. Aprobados para
la Mesa Directiva el 26 de Julio de 1999 en Caracas, Venezuela
Presentados en el Departamento de Estado de San Juan, Puerto Rico por Wanda
Rodríguez Arocho, Secretaria General

International Nonprofit Corporation
Articles of Incorporation
Approved by the Executive Board on July 26, 1999
Caracas, Venezuela

Corporation Name: Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP)

Organized as a nonprofit, scientific and professional organization, serving psychologists in the Americas and internationally. First constitution was adopted in Mexico City, December 19th, 1954.

The purpose of this Society is: (1) to foster scientific and professional collaboration among persons concerned with psychology and related fields in the countries of North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America and (2) to aid in the development of psychology as a science and as a profession in all of the countries of the Americas.

The membership of the Interamerican Society of Psychology and the manner of admission are as follows:

1. Classifications: There are three categories of membership in the Society: Member, Life Member, and Student Member.
2. The status of Member is open to psychologists and other behavioral and social scientists interested in psychology and/or the culture of the Americas. Payment of Society dues is required for membership.
3. The status of Life Member is open to persons who have been members of the Society for at least 20 years, have attained the age of 70, and have retired from active employment. Life members shall be exempt from the payment of annual dues to the Society. They may not vote or hold office.
4. Student members are individuals enrolled full time as graduate or undergraduate students in a psychology program or in a related field. Student members have the same rights and responsibilities as those of regular members. Payment of Society dues is required for membership.

The term of existence for this corporation shall be perpetual.

Names and Residences of Subscribers:

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The officers of the Society can be elected or appointed. The elected officers are the President-Elect, the President, the Past President, the Treasurer, the Vice-President for Canada and the United States, the Vice-President for South America, and the Vice-President for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The appointed officers are the Executive Secretary for Canada and the United States, the Executive Secretary for South America, the Executive Secretary for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and the Secretary General.

Members in good standing of the Society elect the officers and National Representatives through a mail ballot procedure completed before the opening date of a scheduled Interamerican Congress of the Society (every two years). The results of the elections will be officially announced at the closing ceremony of the Congress and shall take effect at that time.

The position of President-Elect is rotated among the following regions: 1) Canada and the United States; 2) Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean; and 3) South America.

Officers for 2001-2003

Dr. Bernado Ferdman, President
Dr. Héctor Fernández Alvarez, President-Elect
Dr. Susan Pick, Past President
Dr. Andrés Consoli Treasurer
Dr. Héctor Betancourt , Vice-President for Canada and the United States
Dr. Mary Jane Spink, Vice-President for South America
Dr. Bernardo Jiménez, Vice-President for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean
Executive Secretary for Canada and the United States (to be appointed)
Executive Secretary for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (to be appointed)
Executive Secretary for South America (to be appointed)
Dr. Wanda Rodriguez, Secretary General

1. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed or initiated by the Board of Directors or by a petition, submitted to the Secretary General, of ten members in good standing of the Society.

2. Members in good standing shall vote through the mails, by e-mail, or fax on any amendment so proposed or initiated. Ninety days after this mailing is sent, the polls shall be closed and the votes for or against the amendment shall be counted by the Secretary General or such other person designated by him/her for such purpose.

The Secretary General shall certify the result of this poll to the Board of Directors, at which time the amendment, if approved by two-thirds of the members voting, shall go into immediate effect.

3. Proposed amendments to the Constitution, previously announced to members by an advance mailing at least 90 days prior to an Interamerican Congress, also may be voted upon during an official meeting of the members during an Interamerican Congress. A vote by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting approving a previously announced amendment at such an official meeting of the Society shall cause such an amendment to take immediate effect.

The undersigned, subscribe to the foresaid Articles of Incorporation of the Interamerican Society of Psychology, and hereby affix our signatures in approval.

Wanda C. Rodríguez Arocho, Ph.D
Secretary General and Registered Agent

CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name

1. The official name of the organization is "Interamerican Society of Psychology." The organization also is known by the initials SIP.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this Society is: (1) to foster scientific and professional collaboration among persons concerned with psychology and related fields in the countries of North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America and (2) to aid in the development of psychology as a science and as a profession in all of the countries of the Americas.

Article III. Membership

1. Classifications: There are three categories of membership in the Society: Member, Life Member, and Student Member.

2. The status of Member is open to psychologists and other behavioral and social scientists interested in psychology and/or the culture of the Americas. Payment of Society dues is required for membership.

3. The status of Life Member is open to persons who have been members of the Society for at least 20 years, have attained the age of 70, and have retired from active employment. Life members shall be exempt from the payment of annual dues to the Society and must apply to the Board of Directors for such status.

4. Student members are individuals enrolled full time as graduate or undergraduate students in a psychology program or in a related field. Student members have the same rights and responsibilities as those of regular members.

Article IV. Officers

1. The officers of the Society include both elected and appointed officers. At each election, members will vote for the following officers: the President-Elect, the Treasurer, the Vice-President for Canada and the United States, the Vice-President for South America, and the Vice-President for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The President-Elect automatically becomes the President and then the Past President at the end of each term of office.

2. The elected officers of the Society remain in office for the duration of the period between two Interamerican Congresses of the Society, but shall be permitted to continue in their respective offices until such time as their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected officers may be re-elected to office by the voting membership.

3. The appointed officers of the Society are the Secretary General; the Executive Secretary for the United States and Canada; the Executive Secretary for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean; and the Executive Secretary for South America.

The President shall appoint Executive Secretaries with the approval of the Board of Directors for the same terms as elected officers. The Secretary General is appointed by the President upon assuming the Presidency, with ratification by the Board of Directors. The Secretary General can serve up to six years and under such conditions as the President and Board of Directors may determine.

The Board may name ad hoc members at its discretion, who have voice but no vote. The editor of the Interamerican Journal of Psychology is an ad hoc member of the board.

Article V. Elections

1. The elected officers and National Representatives shall be elected by the members in good standing of the Society by a secret mail ballot procedure completed before the opening date of a scheduled Interamerican Congress of the Society. The results of the elections will be officially announced at the closing ceremony of the Congress and shall take effect at that time.

2. The position of President-Elect is rotated among the following regions: 1) Canada and the United States; 2) Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean; and 3) South America.

Article VI. The Board of Directors

1. Functions and Powers. The Board of Directors of the Society is the agent through which the general policy and executive functions of the Society shall be carried out. The Board conducts, manages, and controls the business of the Society. The President of the Society is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, and the Secretary General shall be its Executive Officer. The Board of Directors delegates its functions and powers, in cases requiring immediate solutions, to the Executive Committee, which shall consist of the three Presidents and the Secretary General.

2. Membership. The Board of Directors is composed of the elected and appointed officers noted in Sections 1 and 3 of Article IV of this Constitution, for the terms indicated.

3. Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet at the times and places of scheduled Interamerican Congresses of the Society, and at such times as may be designated by agreement of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors. The members of the Board of Directors present at an official meeting of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the accomplishment of its business.

Article VII. Official Meetings

1. Every two years the Society shall organize an Interamerican Congress of Psychology to be held in one city of the Americas. The Board of Directors shall select the site. The Board of Directors shall appoint the President of the Scientific Program Committee and the President of the Organizing Committee.

2. A meeting of SIP members may be scheduled during an Interamerican Congress of Psychology to discuss Society business.

Article VIII. Dues

1. The Board of Directors shall establish annual or other dues.

Article VIII. Amendments to the Constitution

1. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed or initiated by the Board of Directors or by a petition, submitted to the Secretary General, of ten members in good standing of the Society.

2. Members in good standing shall vote through the mails, by e-mail, or fax on any amendment so proposed or initiated. Ninety days after this mailing is sent, the polls shall be closed and the votes for or against the amendment shall be counted by the Secretary General or such other person designated by him/her for such purpose.

The Secretary General shall certify the result of this poll to the Board of Directors, at which time the amendment, if approved by two-thirds of the members voting, shall go into immediate effect.

3. Proposed amendments to the Constitution, previously announced to members by an advance mailing at least 90 days prior to an Interamerican Congress, also may be voted upon during an official meeting of the members during an Interamerican Congress. A vote by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting approving a previously announced amendment at such an official meeting of the Society shall cause such an amendment to take immediate effect.

About the Adoption of the Constitution

1. This constitution was adopted in its original form by vote of the majority of persons who attended the conference celebrated in Mexico City, December 19th, 1954. Amendments to this constitution were approved on August 30, 1988.

2. The Interamerican Society of Psychology was incorporated as an international non-profit organization in San Juan, Puerto Rico on ... The present constitution was based on the 1988 version of the Constitution and includes amendments adopted by the membership during the Interamerican Congress of Psychology in Caracas, Venezuela on ..., 1999 as well as wording changes consistent with current practice approved by the Board of Directors on

By-Laws

Article I. Duties of the Officers

1. During his/her term of office, the President shall serve as the presiding officer of the Society and as a member and chairperson of the Board of Directors.

2. The Secretary General shall serve as Secretary of the Board of Directors and the Executive Officer of the Society, coordinate the activities of the Executive Secretaries and the publication of the Interamerican Psychologist. He/she shall keep the records of all meetings of the Society as well as of the Board of Directors. He/she shall conduct the official correspondence of the Society, issue calls and notices of meetings, and expedite the arrangements for the Congress and other conferences of the Society.

He/she shall, in addition, render all feasible support to the Committees of the Society. He/she shall submit annually to the Board of Directors a statement of the past year's activities of the Society and include therein such recommendations as would promote the purposes of the Society.

He/she shall maintain the membership records of the Society, issue dues notices and collect dues, process approved applications for membership, and respond to inquiries from members. The Secretary General shall establish and maintain a central office for the Society, hire employees and dispose of funds, bonds, titles or valuables in the name of the Society, purchase necessary goods and services under a budget approved by the Board of Directors.

3. The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds, deeds, stocks, and securities belonging to the Society and shall deposit the same in the name of the Society in such banks as the Board of Directors may direct. He/she shall have the authority to sign checks and drafts on behalf of the Society under a budget approved by the Board of Directors or for the disbursement of funds for duly authorized purposes. He/she shall at all reasonable times exhibit his books and accounts to any member of the Society. He/she shall keep a full and complete account of all monies disbursed by the Society.

The Treasurer may delegate responsibility for handling the Society's funds to appropriate officers or committees. In these instances the officer or committee chairman shall establish an account in the name of the Society, maintain proper accounting records, and forward a quarterly report of receipts and expenditures to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for auditing these accounts and shall include these accounts in his annual report to the Board of Directors.

He/she shall deliver a report for each fiscal year to the Board of Directors and shall submit a budget for each forthcoming fiscal year for the consideration of the Board of Directors. He/she shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors. A Finance Committee consisting of three members of the Board will examine the accounts every two years and will consult with the Treasurer and the Secretary General on fiscal matters.

4. The President-Elect shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors, shall act on behalf of the President as needed, and shall succeed to the office of President and subsequently Past President at the expiration of the term of service of the prior President and Past President.

5. The Past President shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors and shall receive and count the ballots of the election held immediately prior to leaving office.

6. The Vice-Presidents of the Society shall serve on the Board of Directors, and shall assist the Society by reflecting the interests of the membership in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

7. The Executive Secretaries shall assist the Secretary General in the performance of his/her duties and responsibilities in their respective areas. Their functions and administrative obligations shall be designated and coordinated by the Secretary General. The Executive Secretaries shall be members of the Board of Directors.

Article II. Duties of the National Representatives

1. The National Representatives shall serve the Society by reflecting the interests of the membership in their respective countries.

2. The functions of the National Representatives shall be: (1) to promote and facilitate communication and cooperation between the Society and national scientific and professional psychological organizations and, when possible, to do this at the meetings of the latter. (2) To promote the incorporation of new members and disseminate information about SIP at a national level. (3) To promote the participation of country members in SIP activities (e.g., journal, congress, seminars). (4) To cooperate in those SIP activities organized or sponsored at a national or regional level. (5) To cooperate with the regional Executive Secretary and the Secretary General in SIP activities.

Article III. Expenses and Compensation of Officers

1. The elected officers of the Society shall serve without compensation. Their necessary expenses, incurred in the performance of their official duties may be paid by the Society to the extent and under such conditions as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

2. The services of the Secretary General and the Editor of the Interamerican Journal of Psychology to the Society may be compensated under a budget approved by the Board of Directors, in addition to reimbursement in the manner of the elected officers of the Society.

Article IV. The Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall report to the membership at each Congress on the action taken by it during the intervals between Congresses. It shall receive all reports of officers and committees, and shall adopt a budget, authorize special expenditures, and determine policy in connection with the Society purposes.

Article V. Election Procedures

1. A Call for Nominations shall be published in the official newsletter of the Society. In addition to nominating persons for the elected offices, members may nominate individuals to serve as National Representative of their country. Nominations will be accepted from members in good standing for up to two persons for each office. The Secretary General will receive nominations, determine those persons with the highest number of nominations for each office, and whether those individuals are active members of the Society and wish to run for office.

2. An election ballot with two names per office will be prepared by the Secretary General and mailed to the members at least 120 days before an Interamerican congress. Members may vote by fax or e-mail. Members who return their ballot by mail will sign the outside of the envelope. When no nominations for National Representative are received for a given country, members may write in their choice on the ballot. The Board of Directors may designate a National Representative if members of a particular country do not choose one.

Article VI. Committees

1. The Committees of the Society shall consist of Standing and Special Committees and Divisions established by the Board of Directors. All Committees shall report annually to the Board of Directors and shall serve until, in the opinion of the Board, the purpose of such Committee has been accomplished.

Article VII. Society Activities

1. The Society shall publish the Interamerican Journal of Psychology/Revista Interamericana de Psicología as a source of original information in psychology. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Editor of the Journal for a period of four years, with possible renewal. The Editor shall have complete editorial freedom in shaping the contents of the Journal and in naming the editorial board.

2. The Society shall publish the Interamerican Psychologist to serve as an informal newsletter for members of the Society. The Editor of the newsletter shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall serve for a period of two years. The Secretary General shall make the necessary publication arrangements for all Society publications.

3. Every two years the Board shall name two recipients of the Interamerican Psychology Award, one an English/French-speaking psychologist and one a Spanish/Portuguese-speaking psychologist who have contributed to the development of psychology as a science and as a profession in the Americas. The award shall consist of a plaque to be presented at the opening session of the Interamerican Congress of Psychology and an invited address at the next congress. Members shall nominate candidates for the award and the Board of Directors will vote on the nominees. Any psychologist residing in the Americas is eligible for the award, except the members of the Board of Directors of the Society. The awardees' presentations will be published in the Interamerican Journal of Psychology.

4. Every two years the Society shall award two Interamerican Psychology Student Prizes to an undergraduate and graduate psychology student who have demonstrated excellence in writing a paper or thesis. The award shall consist of 1) a monetary prize determined by the Board (\$400 in 1999) to be presented at the opening session of the Interamerican Congress of Psychology and 2) the opportunity to present the paper during the Congress. Student papers will be evaluated by a committee named by the Board of Directors and will be published in the Interamerican Journal of Psychology. Any psychology student residing in the Americas is eligible for the award.

5. Every two years, the Society shall award a prize for Best Article in the Interamerican Journal of Psychology. The award shall consist of a plaque to be presented at the opening session of the Interamerican Congress of Psychology. Papers will be evaluated by a committee named by the Editor of the Journal.

6. Between congresses, the Society may hold other meetings. In each case, the Board shall appoint a Coordinator and shall establish relevant policies.

Article VIII. National, Regional, and Student Affiliates of the Society

1. International, national and regional psychological organizations may affiliate with the Society provided their purposes and functions are in general conformity with Article II of the Constitution.

2. The Board of Directors shall determine the admission and relationships of affiliated organizations to the Society.

3. Membership in an affiliated organization does not imply membership in the Society.

Article IX. Amendments to the By-Laws

1. Amendments to the By-Laws may be proposed or initiated by the Board of Directors or by a petition, submitted to the Secretary General, of ten members in good standing of the Society.

2. Any amendment so proposed or initiated shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval or rejection by a two-thirds majority of its members.