

An “American” Psychology

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The future of psychology will be an interface of the best that our discipline offers from all corners of the Americas.

For far too long, we have conceptualized psychology in the Americas as reflecting what is indigenous to each country or region. This approach has resulted in a science and a profession that, while robust to our communities, has prevented the evolution of ideas and practices that are sustainable and generalizable across our continent. Similarly, the domination of psychology by European and North American paradigms has resulted in restrictions to the application of understanding and the ability to serve all of us. Whereas this psychological imperialism helped establish psychology, it has unfortunately prevented the development of viable theories and practices that apply to all segments of our demographics. As our world and psychology have engaged a more global perspective, no psychology has been developed that is either genuinely global or for all the Americas.

As psychology emerges in a post-COVID world, we realize that our traditional paradigms have failed us. A viable alternative to these failed conceptualizations is a robust psychology that addresses where previous approaches have failed. This effort will require a psychology that endorses broader perspectives and demographics. And it is here where the Society for Interamerican Psychology (SIP) is in a particularly excellent place to achieve this. By bringing together the best that psychology from all the Americas has to offer, we will be much closer to helping usher in a new era for psychology- one that bridges the gap between the historical foundations of European and North American psychology with the robustness and passion that Latin and South American psychology offers.

I aim to serve SIP and psychology by doing what is feasible to ensure that this interface is considered, developed, and celebrated. Several steps should be pursued: 1) increase participation in terms of membership and engagement by members of the psychology from North America, 2) provide support and the most active forum possible for voices from Latin and South America in historical and English-speaking venues of knowledge, resources, and power, and 3) fostering specific mechanisms, primarily through advocacy efforts, to ensure that the proposed integrated psychology for all of the Americas moves from a dream and promise to a reality.

I received degrees in psychology from the University of Florida (BA) and the University of Georgia (PhD). I hold the position of Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and Visiting Professor of Psychology at the University of California Los Angeles and Universidad de Granada (Spain). In addition, I maintain a private practice in clinical neuropsychology and a free clinic for the poor. My research is in cultural neuropsychology, and I have published numerous books and articles in several languages. I have been a member of psychological organizations for several years, including SIP and the American Psychological Association (President, 2017). For additional information, check out: antonioepuente.com and/or just write antonioenriquepuente@gmail.com