
Annual Review of Critical Psychology

Volume 17

Critical Psychology in the Majority World



Edited by Sonia Soans, Yasuhiro Igarashi, Karolina Dalimunthe,
Retno Hanggarani Ninin and Yuliana Hanami

Languages used on the front cover

Cover art by Sonia Soans. The words 'critical psychology' are written by all our contributors in their mother tongue.

Arabic	علم النفس النقدي
Bahasa	Psikologi Kritis
Burmese	ဝေဖန်ပိုင်းခြားစိတ်ပညာ
English	Critical Psychology
Hindi	आलोचनात्मक मनोविज्ञान
Japanese	批判心理学
Kannada	ನಿರ್ಣಾಯಕ ಮನೋವಿಜ್ಞಾನ
Malayalam	ക്രിട്ടിക്കൽ സൈക്കോളജി
Ndebele	Isayikholoji Ebucayi
Punjabi	ਅਲੋਚਨਾਤਮਕ ਮਨੋਵਿਗਿਆਨ
Spanish	Psicología Crítica

Annual Review of Critical Psychology

ISSN: 1746-739X

<https://discourseunit.com/annual-review/>

Volume 17

Critical Psychology in the Majority World

Contents

Editorial	6
The Psychopolitics of Breathe, Gesture and Relationality <i>Steve Kumar Bagga</i>	11
Engaged Buddhist Praxis and Critical Psychology <i>Robert K. Beshara</i>	26
Select Eastern Perspectives in Environmental Psychology (and beyond) <i>Tomoaki Imamichi</i>	46
Peasant Psychology: A Subaltern orientation to Indigenizing Indian Psychology <i>Leemamol Mathew and Sony Pellissery</i>	60
Psychoanalysis, Drawings, Letters <i>Hidemoto Makise</i>	75
Similarity is not meaningful until dissimilarity is also commonly shared: Toward a “new” theory of similarity as the mutual commitment to intersubjectivity <i>Masahiro Masuda</i>	93
Exploring intergroup perceptions of voters in the European Union Referendum and United States Presidential Election, held in 2016 <i>Daniella Nayyar</i>	108
Deleuze and the South: critical considerations on minoritarian becomings for a psychology to come <i>Maria Nichterlein</i>	124

Indonesian Context and Javanese Muslim's Experience of Being Religious: Between Arabization and Purifying Islam <i>Retno Hanggarani Ninin</i>	142
Refusing psychology: Maps and territories <i>Ian Parker</i>	151
The relationship between psychology and coloniality: Interpretative repertoires <i>Hernan Camilo Pulido-Martínez and Alba Luz Giraldo Tamayo</i>	163
Locating Social Desire: Economic Empowerment of Women in the Film “Mother India” <i>Sameera Khan Rehmani and Saba Khan</i>	181
Challenging Decolonisation and Postcolonialism in India and South Asia: Directions for Critical Psychology <i>Sonia Soans</i>	200
Dilemmas of Psychology in India <i>Sonia Soans</i>	212
Contextualising Cultural Sensitivity in Eurocentric and Afrocentric Perspectives for Psychological Practice and Research In Africa <i>Sifikile Songo</i>	225
Applying Critical Psychology Education in Classroom: The Gender Studies Classroom as a Space to Open Discussion on Gender and Sexuality Issues <i>Tin Tin Htun</i>	239

Editorial

“The strengths of critical psychology, however, are not merely theoretical, but practical, and evinced in the lived experiences of indigenous peoples.”

Akomolafe, A.C. (2012). Decolonizing the notion of mental illness and healing in Nigeria, West Africa. *Annual Review of Critical Psychology*. 10, pp. 726- 740.

The papers in this special issue of the Annual Review of Critical Psychology are assembled from the workings of three critical psychology conferences – Japan, with in-person attendance, and two virtual conferences that were held virtually via the medium of the internet and video conferencing systems. We aimed to decenter from western global-north voices in critical psychology and to organise amongst the global networks within the field.

- Critical Psychology Conference in East Asia. Held between February 29 - March 1, 2020 at Wako University, Tokyo, Japan.
- The Afro-Asian Critical Psychology Conference. Held on online on 5th May 2022.
- Bandung Conference: Critical Psychology in Asia-Africa Conference. Held between 4 - 6th August 2022, at Universitas Padjadjaran Bandung, Indonesia.

2020 Critical Psychology Conference in East Asian

The 2020 Critical Psychology Conference in East Asian was held in Wako University, Tokyo, Japan, a few days before international restrictions came into place as the Covid pandemic spread across the world. The in-person conference was attended by critical psychology scholars from Japan and around the world. Japanese psychology began as an import from Western countries since 1870s, when "modern psychology" had just started in the West. It is in a unique position in that it developed under the same conditions of modernization, industrialization, urbanization, and colonial imperialism as Western countries, but in a different cultural tradition which has a long history in East Asia. Japanese psychology had developed to a certain degree in research and education by the 1930s, but as a result of the defeat in World War II, it was wholly Americanized with 'US-American scientific psychology', as were its political economy and mass culture, and it remains so until the present. Against this background, the conference was organized to facilitate critical psychologists from around the world, especially from the Global South, to discuss the growing international critical psychology movement, which has become a significant force to be reckoned with in the international psychological community this century.

As is customary at international conferences, English was the working language, but due to the Covid pandemic, native English-speaking participants were unable to travel to Japan. The conference was unique in that critical psychologists from around the world gathered in East Asia to discuss critical psychology from their own contexts using English, which is not their native language, while "mainstream critical psychology" developed mainly in English-speaking countries in the context of English and the culture of English-speaking countries. The intellectual exchanges and human networking that took place at 2020 CPCEA stimulated the organization of further international conferences on critical psychology from the perspective of the Global South, such as the Bandung Critical Psychology Conference. The program of the Tokyo conference and abstracts of the presentations can be found at the website <https://2020criticalpsychologytokyo.jimdofree.com/>.

Every effort was taken to make sure the speakers could fully enjoy the vibrant scenes of the city of Tokyo, in addition to the stimulating discussions during the conference. There is a growing network of critical psychology scholars in Japan who meet regularly. This conference was a means to meet and share their work with a wider audience.





2022 Afro-Asian Critical Psychology Conference

The Afro-Asian Critical Psychology Conference was held online in May 2022. Coming in at a time when the pandemic was being forgotten we wanted to keep the conference as accessible as possible. In doing so we wanted to address precariousness and accessibility which often gets written out of mainstream academia. Several theoretical and political issues encountered in psychology were presented by speakers from across the globe, with representation from Tokyo, Japan through to California in the USA. It was overwhelming to see so many countries represented. Our speakers ranged from students to established academics, presenting thought-provoking issues and giving an insight into the current work of psychologists within their local contexts. Topics ranged from issues around gender, sexuality, emerging discourses, migration, war, history of psychology to psychoanalysis. The speakers explored different frameworks and models of psychology through their talks.

Our network was set up to explicitly focus on critical psychology in Africa, Asia and the Majority World. We recognised that scholars and activists in this field are often precariously placed and are often working outside traditional academic settings. Often working alone and in isolation can take a toll, in our own small way we hope to highlight this vital work and build a network of scholars, activists and lay people who have an interest in critical psychology and adjacent fields. Through this conference and the events we have held subsequently, we hope to address issues in psychology and build a network that attempts to do justice to its members and participants.

2022 Bandung Critical Psychology Conference

The Bandung Critical Psychology Conference was held in August 2022 with participants from mostly Indonesia, but also from India, Korea, Turkey, Japan, and Canada. The topics presented in this conference ranged from narration on locality and history of psychology based on the regions and also there are efforts to show social movements of underprivileged groups in Indonesia and other regions. These local narrations can be used as a foundation to develop critical arguments and points of view that differ from those of the West, instead reflecting the voices of the Global South. This way, we can decolonize Western science in order to make it relevant to us, peoples of the Global South.

The conference sought to expand the critical psychology network in Asia, Africa and the rest of the world. The specific aim of the Bandung Critical Psychology Conference was to build upon a growing network of critical psychologists in the region and especially highlight research conducted in Southeast Asia. We hope to be a part of the wider critical psychology movement both within and outside Indonesia.

Critical Psychology in the Majority World

This special issue of the ARCP Journal is a collaboration between our three groups – the Critical Psychology Colloquium of the Japanese Psychological Association, the Afro-Asian Critical Psychology Forum <https://afroasiancriticalpsychology.wordpress.com/about-us/>, and the Universitas Padjadjaran <https://www.unpad.ac.id/en/>.

In the wake of the Cold War, the non-aligned movement grew from the Bandung Afro-Asian Conference in 1955; our conferences attempted to follow the spirit of that, and capture the solidarities and conversations of our present times. Many issues affecting the world then - poverty, disease, war, human displacement - continue to affect us now. Climate change is a growing spectre which may soon overshadow all. As critical psychologists, we feel the need to address these issues and advocate for social change and social justice. We hope to not just talk, but to also galvanise ourselves and society towards necessary activism.

After sharing and discussing our thoughts at the conference, we believe that it is important to consciously strengthen the connection within critical psychology practitioners primarily in the Majority World through meetings, solidarity movements and other collaborative networks in the future. These conferences showed us that we are not alone and it is possible to keep on walking this critical path as long as we have our comrades side by side with us.

In solidarity,

Sonia Soans, Yasuhiro Igarashi, Karolina Dalimunthe, Retno Hanggarani Ninin and Yulianna Hanami

Acknowledgements

In person and virtual conferences require vast amounts of work to organise, and the efforts of many unseen people to make a success. Equally the collaborative documentation of these events within this journal has involved extensive labour from our teams. We would like to thank:

- Ian Parker who gave us complete editorial freedom to produce this volume of the ARCP.
- Takehiko Ito (Wako University)
<https://wako.academia.edu/TakehikoIto/CurriculumVitae>
- Fu Wai (Hong Kong Shue Yan University)
<https://counpsy.hksyu.edu/TeachingStaff/detail/Dr.%20FU%2C%20Wai>
- David Fryer (University of Queensland)
<https://education.uq.edu.au/profile/206/david-fryer>
- The staff and students of Wako University
- Peter Marshall (Accessibility Advisor Afro-Asian Critical Psychology Forum)
<https://wordpress.com/view/afroasiancriticalpsychology.wordpress.com>
- The Universitas Padjadjaran Bandung, Indonesia <https://www.unpad.ac.id/en/>

We are grateful to our reviewers and everyone who helped bring this special issue together.

Proof-reading and document formatting has been kindly provided by A Different Drum <https://differentdrum.substack.com/>, a new academic equity enterprise focusing on highlighting marginalised and under represented voices in critical psychology, as well as providing educational resources to empower the next generation of researchers, activists, and citizens.