JUDITH GIBBONS Ph.D.

Judith Gibbons is Professor Emerita of Psychology at Saint Louis University. She is the president of the Interamerican Society of Psychology, better known as SIP, its acronym in Spanish. She is the editor of the American Psychological Association Division 52 journal *International Perspectives in Psychology: Research, Practice, Consultation*. Her research interests include intercountry adoption, adolescent development, gender, and cross-cultural and international psychology. In Guatemala, she has studied the development of young adolescents’ ideals and hopes for the future, attitudes toward adoption, ethnic prejudice, and eating disorders. Her major goal is to apply psychological knowledge to help people address the problems they face in their daily realities. Her work has allowed her to meet people of many cultures and she feels honored to have worked with and learned from so many diverse individuals. Now that she is retired, she works even harder. Her main achievements are her graduate students who are engaged in research and teaching, and others she has mentored in research and publication. In her personal life, she lives in Antigua Guatemala with her husband Raymond, her dogs, and horses.

*Interviewed by Sandra Elizabeth Luna Sanchez M.A., ECP Member of SIP – Society of Interamerican Psychology*

SANDRA ELIZABETH LUNA SANCHEZ M.A.

Sandra is a visionary and a trailblazer. She has two master's degrees, in clinical psychology and counseling, and soon she will be the first PhD graduate of the public University of Guatemala! Sandra keeps herself very busy working in private practice, where she specializes in children’s intellectual evaluation. She also teaches psychology courses, such as in the area of disaster intervention. Sandra also spends one day per week serving a nearby rural community. She especially finds it satisfying to work with the children, who have learned over time that they can come to her with their problems each week. Sandra is the past-president of the Psychology Association of Guatemala. She became involved with SIP when she formed the organizing committee for the 32nd Congress, held in Guatemala. She is currently vice president of her region (Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean) and has been nominated for the role of president. She brings boundless energy and vision to everything she does, believing that the diversity within SIP and Division 52 creates opportunities to learn from one another and share different perspectives on similar problems.

*Interviewed by Melissa Smigelsky, M.A., Student Member of APA Division52 – International Psychology*

MELISSA SMIGELSKY M.A.

Melissa Smigelsky is a 2nd year doctoral student in clinical psychology at the University of Memphis. She has had international interests since her teenage years when she traveled widely while singing in a choir; now, Melissa is not content when not engaged in international activities. Today her primary interest is sub-Saharan Africa, especially the Democratic Republic of Congo where she traveled for a month in 2013. Her approach to international research involves investing deeply in a culture, first to reach a profound understanding, and then to collaboratively identify problems that she can help address. Melissa recently submitted a manuscript in which she interviewed Congolese refugee women who had suffered sexual violence and had used spirituality in their recovery from trauma. Melissa is co-chair of the student committee for Division 52 and believes that collaboration with SIP may provide opportunities for students to host one another, build contacts, and learn about psychology outside the US. She asserts that psychologists are uniquely skilled to be the ambassadors of a multicultural future. In her free time, Melissa has returned to her choral roots, singing in the choir at her church.

*Interviewed by Judith Gibbons, Senior Member of SIP – Society of Interamerican Psychology and APA Division52 – International Psychology*
Notes:

In Latin America professional training in psychology is typically based on the licentiate, a five-year program focused on academic and practical training in psychology. The degree is more comparable to a master's degree than to a bachelor's, and qualifies psychologists to engage in psychotherapy. For more information: Hernández-Guzmán, L., & Sánchez-Sosa, J. J. (2008). Practice and regulation of professional psychology in Latin America. In J. E. Hall & E. M. Altmaier (Eds.). Global promise: Quality assurance and accountability in professional psychology (pp. 109-127). New York: Oxford University Press.

Please be aware that the category of "Early Career Psychologist" (ECP) means a psychologist, and/or academician, and/or researcher, and/or practitioner who is in his/her first 10 years of career, and the category "Senior" means that this individual has more than 10 years of career. These categories are for the purpose of Fast-Connect-Across-Borders.

Have a look at our website. We keep an archive of all the Fast-Connects

div52ecp.wordpress.com

If you want to participate in a trio please contact
Suzana Adams PsyD at suzea@mac.com or Hector Torres PsyD at HTorres@thechicagoschool.edu

Suzana Adams PsyD - Member-at-Large of Div52 and ECP Committee Chair
and Hector Torres PsyD - SIP International Liaison
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