

Dr Harry Triandis

From: [Ann Marie Yamada](#)

Louise,
Was this shared or another version? Sad news

Friends ~

I write with the sad news that former SCCR president and current SCCR member Harry Triandis passed away on Saturday, June 1.

Harry was a giant in cross-cultural research. He was born in Greece and moved to Canada as a young man. He graduated from McGill University, the University of Toronto, and Cornell University. He was an emeritus professor of psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He was a prolific and impactful researcher, scholar, and author who won many awards including: the Career Contribution Award from SPSP, a Lifetime Contributions Award from the International Academy for Intercultural Research, the Award for Outstanding International Psychologist from APA, and many others.

I did not know Harry well on a personal level—I only met him a couple of times. But I know that many SCCR members had deep and meaningful relationships with Harry. I'm very sorry for your personal loss, and for the loss to our intellectual and academic community.

Take care,
~Brien
President, Society for Cross-Cultural Research

From: [Marc Pilisuk](#)

Sent: Saturday, June 08, 2019 4:37 PM

Sad news

I remember him by his nick name "Guss" Triandos and by foundational contributions to X-cultural psychology.

Peace,

Marc

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The Hidden Structure of Violence: Who Benefits From Global Violence and War by Marc Pilisuk and Jennifer Achord Rountree. New York, NY: New York Monthly Review, 2015. Released July 2015. [Order the book here.](#)

Peace Movements Worldwide (3 Volumes) by Marc Pilisuk and Michael Nagler (Eds). Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger/ABC-Clio, 2011.

From: [Dan Landis](#)

Sent: Saturday, June 08, 2019 5:10 PM

Remembering Harry

Where to start? So many memories crowding in. Neurons firing, emotions elbowing each other out. Sorrow above all, but satisfaction that he is in peace without pain. And, so go to the beginning.

I am incredulous to realize that my friendship with this giant (both figuratively and literally) of our field began a half century ago. Has it really been that long? In 1969, I was working at Educational Testing Service in Princeton and only 6 years out of the doctoral program. That year, Charlie Osgood came to ETS to give a colloquium. Since the Chair of my doctoral program had been Charlie's undergraduate advisor, I took the opportunity to introduce myself and talk a bit about my previous work on evaluating Title I programs in a large city. Charlie immediately said that I "must" meet his colleague, Harry Triandis, who had a contract to develop training programs for people working with disadvantaged individuals and families. Charlie was also working on his cross-cultural analysis of word meanings grounded in the theory of the semantic differential which had fascinated me since my graduate school days. So, I took the opportunity to fly out to Champaign-Urbana to meet with both Charlie and Harry. I spent most of my visit with Harry as he looked for ways that we could collaborate. He was the most unassuming person that I had ever met. Not a bit of ego...I don't recall him ever using the word "I." As we talked, we both saw that there would be value in studying the culture of urban minorities as one would study the culture of Greece as he had done in several articles and his forthcoming 1972 classic, *The analysis of subjective culture*.

Somewhere along the way, he gave me a draft copy of a technical report that subsequently became the Weldon, et. al (1975) laboratory study of culture assimilator training and asked me if I had any ideas about a puzzling finding. Me, a wet behind the ears fairly new Ph.D! When I got back to Princeton, I re-read the report and made a suggestion. Darn, if Harry didn't go and quote that suggestion with an attribution to me when the paper appeared in print. That was Harry, always focused on building up others not himself. Even when he was attacked, he never responded in kind, sometimes even finding a justification to be able to see the other with kindness and understanding.

An example: In the 1971 meeting of APA in Honolulu, Harry was, to my mind, unfairly attacked on a panel. He didn't reply to the negative and unfair, to my mind, attributions. After the panel, he had only kind things to say about the attacker. Later on at that same conference, the Munich massacre was occurring and receiving extensive television coverage. Harry, myself, and Fred Fiedler found ourselves in the same room fixated on the television. Fred, being an immigrant from Europe, was very distraught, as was I. Harry was the calming force in the room, not justifying the events but finding a rationale for them. Harry was ever the scientist who believed in the core of his being, that, if we worked at it, science could help people to live together in harmony.

Shortly, thereafter, we collaborated on a National Science Foundation grant in the Philadelphia school system which resulted in several papers and book chapters. Harry was never the first author on any of them, though I and the other authors always recognized the source of the underlying theoretical structure.

Another telling episode: As many have noted, Harry was the most modest person. This was real modesty, not a bit false. At the Taiwan 2004 Academy meeting, I had the honor of presenting Harry with the first Lifetime Achievement Award. In his remarks, he commented that, of course, his contributions will probably not survive his lifetime. This was realistic when we consider how often we have read a dissertation proposal with no references from more than three years hence. Apparently, many students seem to feel that academic writing of any worth had to be current and still warm from the printing press. Anyway, I assured Harry that his concern was unfounded. I hope I was correct. But, it a mark of a truly modest scholar that Harry saw his contributions as fleeting.

In the middle 70's when the idea of IJIR began to form, Harry was among the first to become a consulting editor. Over the years, he was my go-to reviewer. Always gentle, never hostile or looking for reasons to reject a paper, rather, continually looking for ways to make a paper better and even important. Authors who become defensive paid for it, those who realized that Harry was giving them a gift prospered then and in their future careers. He was the reviewer that authors devotedly wished for but, sadly rarely get.

As the association of IJIR with the SIETAR-International reached a nadir, Harry strongly supported the idea of an Academy, which would be a small group of scholars who would advance the state of theory and also place practice on a solid scientific foundation

Harry's personality made him ideally fitted to be a mentor to young scientists. Those who are fortunate in their graduate days to find a kindly and supportive person as advisors are to be blessed. Harry's graduate students can look back on their doctoral programs with a sense of wonder at what they accomplished and know that it was Harry that brought out the best in them. He wanted them to succeed and they have done him proud. Though I was not a graduate student at Illinois, I was similarly blessed by mentors who were in the same mold as Harry, though older. I am sure that his students are now working to emulate him with their students, as I did with my students. It is, after all, what graduate school is supposed to be about, is it not? Harry was, above all, a *mensch*.

I puzzled for some time to find a way to express my love for this unique man as well as my sadness that he is gone. Since my earliest days I have been a fan of the music of George and Ira Gershwin who better than most expressed both the agony, longing, and exhilaration of that emotion we call (with apologies to Cole Porter) love. The last song that they wrote provides that expression. Although it was written as a love song, the last one that George wrote, there is a legend that Ira wrote the words as a memorial to

the loss of his brother. I found solace in its words and I hope you do also. If you want the full impact of the song, listen to Ella Fitzgerald's cover.

"Our Love is here to stay" (Music by George Gershwin, Lyrics by Ira Gershwin)

(Verse)

The more I read the papers
The less I comprehend
The world and all its capers
And how it all will end
Nothing seems to be lasting
But that isn't our affair
We've got something permanent
I mean in the way we care

(Chorus)

It's very clear
Our love is here
To stay ;
Not for a year
But ever and a day
The radio and the telephone
And the movies that we know
May just be passing fancies
And in time may go!
But, oh my dear
Our love is here to stay
Together we're
Going a long, long way
In time the Rockies may crumble
Gibraltar may tumble
There're only made of clay
But our love is here to stay

There will always be a hole in my heart for the loss of Harry. Sleep well, my friend.

Dan Landis

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Emeritus Dean, College of Liberal Arts (University of Mississippi)

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Winner of 2012 APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to International Advancement of Psychology

Latest Books:

(with Rosita Albert) *Handbook of Ethnic Conflict: International Perspectives* (2012 Springer).
Winner of 2013 William B.Gudykunst award for best book on intercultural relations.
(with Jason Warnick) *Neuroscience in Cultural Contexts* (2015, Springer).

Book in Progress:

(with Dharm Bhawuk) *Handbook of Intercultural Training, 4th Ed.* (Cambridge University Press).

Academy website:

<http://www.intercultural-academy.net>

From: [Lutz Eckensberger \(via iptaskforce list\)](#)

Sent: Sunday, June 09, 2019 12:03 PM

To: iptaskforce@simplelists.com

Subject: Re: Remembering Harry Triandis

Dear Dan,

I do not know, whether you remember my name, but we met several times in IACCP conferences. I also got to know Harry from this context although I never worked with him. But I respected him very much because he managed to be intellectually quite open. The book on subjective culture, for instance, was in a sense, quite ahead of time. So these lines only try to justify why I at all feel justified to react to your mail on Harry's passing away. It shows so much of affection of friendship and sadness but primarily respect for Harry and his work. Thank you for having passed it to me

Cordially

Lutz H. Eckensberger
