

GOODBYE: NEW BEGINNINGS

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As I am beginning to write this final editorial as the editor of the Interamerican Journal of Psychology (IJP), I can help but to have reflections about these few years. In 2011, when I began this process in where the position as an editor was not a new task or a different process for me given that I have been editorial boards and a reviewer of several journals in the United States. However, I soon discover that the process of being an editor of a journal where over 80% of their authors and readership are in Latin America and outside of the United States was proved to be quite different in terms of culture, expectations, and process. It has been an exciting ride, with several bumps in the road and yet several rewards. I got to be in the position of my greatest hero in the field of social justice and liberation, Dr. Ignacio Martín Baró. A man who was not only prolific in his writings and actions but a person that those of us that enter the helping to really help and to “walk the walk” must emulate. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in a position that provides services to “mi gente” in the Americas beyond the confinements of the self-imposed human borders. I also learned how the politics of all fields seem to enter into every aspect of human life, as everything seems to have political ramifications.

I know that as I take my books and leave this space, the future of the journal is in the capable hands of a young, energetic, and visionary new editor that, without a doubt, it will take it to a higher and better place in every aspect of the journal. Thus, I want to be brief in my final editorial comment, as I always thought that the editor's job was to open doors to promote the work of the people in the field and not a stage for self-promotion.

In the last eight years, I have been able to observe the move to publish in English by many Latin American countries and, to some degree, mimic the standard of publications and research lead by the United States. Additionally, the impact factor seems to be a constant motivator in the United States in terms of publications. Similarly, it appeared as it is the same motivator for other countries as well, in particular Latin American countries. The most significant difference seems to be around the financial implications for countries with fewer resources. However, the power of a higher impact factor (IF) proved to be more important than anything else. In fact, in a need assessment survey that was sent to the readers of the journal indicated that over 80% of those who are choosing the journal for their publications are interested in their IF, which it could be a little tricky because the indexation such as Thomson Reuter IF has a cost. Nonetheless, the Thomson Reuter IF is not free of controversy (Roger, 2005).

Additionally, while now several other bibliometrics (Harzing, 2007) are available, many people in academia are unwilling to give the legitimization to those other IF indexations. All of these to recall the idea that decolonizing psychology needs to be upfront and forward for the future of the IJP. In 2013 in the editorial entitled “*Is quality a culturally-based or universal construct?*” the argument of what still using Western values as the measurement and definition of quality is practicing colonial psychology (Torres Rivera, 2013). Thus, I am finishing by

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making a call to the authors and readers that the Interamerican psychology continue to strive not to emulate USA psychology or European psychology, but an Interamerican way of discovering knowledge and existing information to help the community.

References

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