

## Report from the World Psychological Forum 2015 in Prague in the Czech Republic

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During September 17-19th 2015, the Union of Psychologists Associations in the Czech Republic (UPA CR) in cooperation with the Czech-Moravian Psychological Society (CMPS) and the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague organized a **World Psychological Forum 2015** (WPF 2015) held in Prague, Czech Republic.

Topics as human behaviour, interactions, even affairs, are often discussed in nowadays psychology, including psychology of individuals, psychology of social groups and societies. At the same time, the World Psychological Forum recognized different perspectives and expertise of other relevant disciplines e.g. *Political Sciences, Economy, Cross-Cultural Sciences* and others. Therefore the World Psychological Forum 2015 was titled **Crossroads of Interdisciplinarity**. From psychological perspective, the burden of many problems the world suffers from does exist and there is a strong need to address them responsibly from the humanistic, yet also realistic perspectives. This need is so strong that the psychological forum has realized the urgency for a platform to discuss topical issues, share different points of view, exchange wisdom and network.

In 2015, the focus was given on the following areas: *Political Psychology, Economic Psychology and Cross-Cultural Psychology*. Among the honoured guest speakers and active contributors, the program was enriched by various plenary sessions led by: Philip G. Zimbardo (USA) and his topic Transforming the social lure to evil into everyday heroism; Christina Maslach (USA) presenting Burnout in professional and economics contexts; Shalom Schwartz (ISR) Cultural Values: nature & implications of national differences; Saths Cooper (RSA) Transitions of political systems: a personal psychosocial view; Martina Klicperová Baker (CZE) presenting Democracy in an interdisciplinary perspective; Jacques Rupnik (FRA) Current World: threats and opportunities, political science perspective; Jana Plichtová (SVK) presenting Equal and compassionate citizens: feasibility of the political idea from the perspective of social psychology; Michael Žantovský (CZE) presenting Politics, diplomacy and human nature and the others.

Moreover, one of the most significant awards of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) – the honorary medal *De scientia et humanitate optime meritis* – was awarded to Prof. Philip Zimbardo by President of the AS Prof. Jiří Drahoš in the main building of CAS in Prague during the World Psychological Forum 2015.

The WPF 2015 program consisted of many plenary sessions (some already mentioned above), E-posters fast presentation tracks in between, three tracks of E-posters sessions covering main topics of the forum: Political Psychology, Economic Psychology and Cross-Cultural Psychology sessions and finally the Panel Discussion “Magic Circuit” represented by honored guests - in a sense meeting the ‘best of the best’ panel presenters. Furthermore, the current situation in the Czech psychology from the perspective of different associations was presented in the opening and closing ceremony by Union of Psychologists Associations in the Czech Republic (UPA CR), the Czech-Moravian Psychological Society (CMPS) and the Czech Association of Psychology Students (CASP).

The WPF 2015 brought together regular and active participants from various countries that had the chance to spend three late summer days in Prague's pleasant venue located at the Dorint Hotel Don Giovanni. Family-like atmosphere at the venue, enriched with many fruitful discussions and informal personal meetings among academics and other participants during the coffee-breaks and lunch times, together built an unforgettable event. Other organized cultural experiences in Prague downtown after the formal lectures gave the WPF 2015 an added value.

To conclude, the WPF 2015 was notable event that covered the topics of political psychology, cross-cultural psychology, economic psychology and far more, very well-organized by the Union of Psychologists Associations in the Czech Republic and fully committed volunteering psychology students.

Upcoming World Psychological Forum is planned for 2017 and will be held in Brno, Czech Republic. More information will be announced by UPA and CMPS.

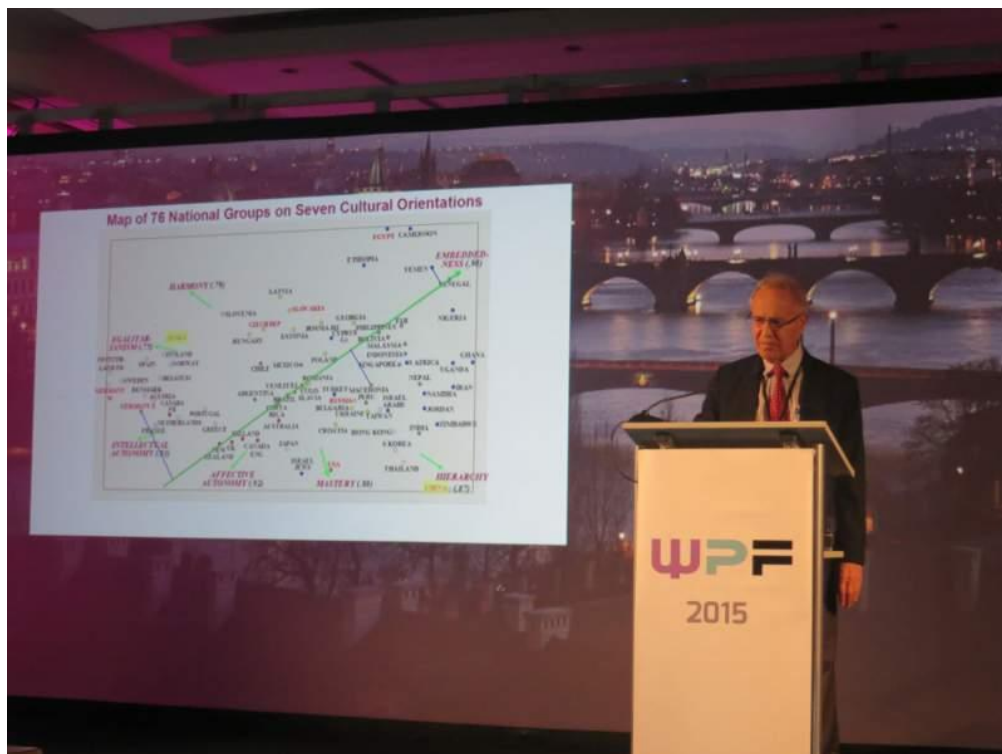


*Figure I. Prof. Zimbardo received the highest award of the Czech Academy of Sciences.*

*(Source: <http://www.cas.cz/sd/novinky/>)*



*Figure II. Dr. Martina Klicperová  
(Source: Conference organizers)*



*Figure III. Prof. Shalom Schwartz  
(Source: Conference organizers)*



*Figure IV. Team of volunteers with Prof. Philip G. Zimbardo and Dr. Iva Poláčková Šolcová  
(Source: Conference organizers)*

For further information, check out the following official websites:

The World Psychological Forum 2015 (WPF 2015): <http://www.wpforum.eu/>

The Union of Psychologists Associations in the Czech Republic (UPA CR): <http://www.upacr.cz/>

The Czech-Moravian Psychological Society (CMPS): <http://www.cmps.ecn.cz/>

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