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Report of the Independent Reviewer and Related Materials

The APA Board of Directors engaged attorney David Hoffman of the law firm Sidley Austin in November 2014 to conduct an independent review of whether there was any factual support for the assertion that APA engaged in activity that would constitute collusion with the Bush administration to promote, support or facilitate the use of "enhanced" interrogation techniques by the United States in the war on terror. Following are links to the complete, unedited independent review and supplemental materials, press releases related to the report and documentation of action taken in response to the report by APA's Board of Directors, Council of Representatives and leadership.

Actions by APA Board of Directors, Council of Representatives and Leadership

Board and Council Actions Related to the Report of the Independent Review Relating to APA Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations and Torture (</independent-review/board-council-actions.aspx>) : April 21, 2016

Letter from APA President Barry S. Anton, PhD, ABPP (</independent-review/apa-response-mena.pdf>) , (PDF, 214KB) in response to an open letter to APA and the psychological community (</independent-review/open-letter-mena.pdf>) (PDF, 297KB) from members of the American Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) Psychological Network: Oct. 16, 2015

APA Moving Forward After the Independent Review (</independent-review/moving-forward.aspx>) : Sept. 25, 2015

Council of Representatives Resolution 23B (</independent-review/psychologists-interrogation.pdf>) (PDF, 263KB): Resolution to Amend the 2006 and 2013 Council Resolutions to Clarify the Roles of Psychologists Related to Interrogation and Detainee Welfare in National Security Settings, to Further Implement the 2008 Petition Resolution, and to Safeguard Against Acts of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in All Settings: Aug. 7, 2015 | En Español (</independent-review/interrogaciones-psicologos.pdf>) (PDF, 43KB)

Roll Call Vote on Council of Representatives Resolution 23B (</independent-review/council-votes-interrogations.pdf>) (PDF, 87KB): Aug. 7, 2015

Key Provisions of the APA Policy Banning Psychologist Participation in National Security Interrogations (</independent-review/key-provisions-policy.aspx>) : Aug. 7, 2015

Recommended Board Actions Related to the Report of the Independent Review Relating to Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations and Torture (</independent-review/recommended-actions-073115.aspx>) : July 31, 2015 | En Español (</independent-review/acciones-073115.aspx>)



Recommended Board Actions Related to the Report of the Independent Review Relating to APA Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations and Torture (</independent-review/recommended-actions.aspx>) : July 29, 2015

Letter to APA members from APA President-Elect Susan McDaniel, PhD, and APA Past President Nadine J. Kaslow, PhD, ABPP, members of the Special Committee for the Independent Review (</independent-review/letter-members-apology.pdf>) (PDF, 89KB): July 24, 2015

Letter to Psychology Colleagues in the International Community (</independent-review/international-letter.pdf>) (PDF, 131K): July 21, 2015 | En Español (</independent-review/carta-internacional.pdf>) (PDF, 131K)

Press Releases

APA Alerts Federal Officials to New Policy Banning Psychologists From National Security Interrogations (</news/press/releases/2015/10/banning-psychologists-interrogations.aspx>) : Oct. 28, 2015

APA's Council Bans Psychologist Participation in National Security Interrogations (</news/press/releases/2015/08/psychologist-interrogations.aspx>) : Aug. 7, 2015 | En Español (</news/press/releases/2015/08/interrogaciones-psicologos.aspx>)

APA Announces Retirements and Resignation of Senior Leaders (</news/press/releases/2015/07/retirements-resignation.aspx>) : July 14, 2015

Independent Review Cites Collusion Among APA Individuals and Defense Department Officials in Policy on Interrogation Techniques (</news/press/releases/2015/07/independent-review-release.aspx>) : July 10, 2015 | En Español (</news/press/releases/2015/07/revision-independiente.aspx>)

Independent Review Report & Supplemental Materials

Report of the Independent Reviewer, Revised Sept. 4, 2015 (</independent-review/revised-report.pdf>) (PDF, 2 MB): Sept. 4, 2015

Errata Sheet of Sept. 4, 2015, Revisions to the Report of the Independent Reviewer (</independent-review/errata-sheet.pdf>) (PDF, 28KB): Sept. 4, 2015

Report of the Independent Reviewer (<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/APA-FINAL-Report-7.2.15.pdf>) (PDF, 2.62MB): July 2, 2015

Index of Exhibits to the APA Independent Review Report (<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/exhibit-index.pdf>) (PDF, 171KB)

Binder 1 (<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/binder-1.pdf>) (PDF, 104MB)

Binder 2 (<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/binder-2.pdf>) (PDF, 164MB)

Binder 3 (<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/binder-3.pdf>) (PDF, 93MB)

Binder 4 (<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/binder-4.pdf>) (PDF, 212MB)

Binder 5 (<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/binder-5.pdf>) (PDF, 85MB)



Binder 6 (<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/binder-6.pdf>) (PDF, 70MB)

Comments

Responses from those Mentioned in the Independent Report (/independent-review/responses.aspx)

For those people who have been mentioned or otherwise have personal knowledge about the events discussed in the Independent Report, **we have established a forum where you may post a response (/independent-review/responses.aspx)** based on the facts presented or address what you believe are factual errors or provide your own account of the issues pertaining to you. PLEASE NOTE: The "Responses" page is not intended to be an open discussion forum. If you wish to comment on anything posted on that page, please use the public comments section at the bottom of this page.

All Public Comments on the Independent Report

The following comment section is provided to allow for an online conversation regarding the Independent Report and we ask that you provide helpful suggestions.

By posting your comment(s) here, you agree that you shall not upload to, or distribute or otherwise publish any libelous, defamatory, obscene, pornographic, abusive, or otherwise illegal material. We ask that your conduct be courteous and respectful and that you not threaten or verbally abuse other people, use defamatory language, or deliberately disrupt discussions. Further, you agree not to use discriminatory language on the basis of race, religion, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age, region, disability, etc. APA has the sole right to remove any posting it believes does not fit within these parameters without notice.

Timeline of Related APA Policies and Actions

270 Comments

APA

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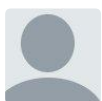


Join the discussion...

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Name



DrSam • 2 years ago

The APA is a dinosaur. My experiences with it go back as early as when I was a student and still had sticker shock for membership fees. Other experiences include me approaching a president of

...and another person for membership fees. Other experiences include the approaching a president of the APA who headed a graduate school of psychology in a Southern State. I attempted to contact him to get input on some ideas I was contemplating researching for my dissertation. It so happened that I held an opposite worldview as he did, He never introduced himself but quickly engaged in trashing me with vitriol and showed a religious zealotry for his entrenched position. He went into shaming my position and ridiculing it. I must say, I almost walked away with a case of PTSD! I was in shock that such individuals train future psychologists and also grace the presidency of the APA. I would have given him a zero in his interpersonal IQ and an "F" in his lack of empathic ability to entreat and actually listen.

I also watched the APA from the sidelines when they went after religious higher learning institutions that offer clinical psych doctorates. They threatened to take their accreditation away like a bully gorilla. So much for exemplifying a spirit of respecting religious diversity. Thankfully, some higher up politicians reigned in the abusive creature and immediately, though reluctantly, the APA issued an apology. I am suspicious that this is just lip service only to eventually go after these institutions to penalize them for their "different" beliefs. I don't trust the APA. I've seen them ban psychologists and psychotherapists scholars and practitioners from sharing their research and doing presentations at the national conferences. When the APA forms a task force on these matters they stack the deck with members who favor their doctrinal views.

On the educational front, the APA is in the Dark Ages. To date it has only approved one online graduate school to graduate APA sanctioned clinical psychologists. That school is Fielding Graduate University. I have contacted a recent APA president on this matter and I got rebuffed. For a fact, I know of more quality programs that have attempted to obtain APA accreditation. They have practically given up after pumping massive amounts of money to bring programs up to standards and being ignored by the APA. While the world is moving into innovative and proven platforms, the APA is entrenched in and stuck in the last Century.

Another area where the APA has ancient thinking is in the recertification program. Many folks have a psychotherapy license at a Masters level and have taken most of the same classes a psychologist has to take academically. The APA creates a mafia-like racket where they require along with the money-hungry universities many of these highly qualified and greatly experienced clinicians who hold an academic Ph.D. to repeat most of what they have already taken. On top of that, ZERO of the clinical hours already done (around 2-3 thousand hours) count. Shame on the APA. It is a good ole boys club full of political red tape.

These are just several examples of why the APA is in demise mode. I do not have membership and don't care to give them my hard earned money for exorbitant membership fees. My colleagues also care little and laugh at the APA. They abandoned the organization years ago.

I hope the APA takes notice and listens to these realities. If not, they are doomed to continue bleeding away. Eventually, we will place their tombstone.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Diane Gartland • 3 years ago

Frankly, I take umbrage at the collapsing/merging of the entirety of APA with its some tier governance and advisory structure. APA has 56 divisions full of people who are very pc informed about the involvements of governance and certain other upper tier members or (worse) swamped with so much superfluous information so that they are really not "in on the take" and miss



swamped with so much superfluous information so that they are really not in on the task and miss the important information. It is clear from the H. report that most members had very little information to go on other than the standard "we are against torture" line. True, if most of us were not working for a living, maybe we would have the time to wonder at length about why APA did not condemn certain individuals participating in torture who were allegedly psychologists (though not APA members) and whether or not we were being told the truth about the involvement of some other advisory psychologists and governance. Why would anyone not take someone's word at face value unless they already had an index of suspicion?

I recall expressing misgivings to Levant and other speechifiers at NOLA convention in 2006 as to whether he was being allowed to see the "real" Guantanamo and wondering why Ethical principle 1.02 was so loose that I could not rely on it nor my association's ethics committee for back up when I chose to be insubordinate at my government job (after being told to do something reprehensible). I wondered why APA did not formerly condemn the actions of Mitchell etc. Now I know why. But being remiss in adding up 2 and 2 correctly and in taking a more trusting attitude make me complicit all along? I don't think so.

I have always thought that resigning from APA was a cowardly thing to do, at least for me. I believe in fixing things and not running away from them. My feeling is that I have a right to be a member, more so than those who would misrepresent what APA's mission is all about and I intend to fight for the evolving effort to grow that mission. I think it unfortunately naïve and gullible and over idealizing to imagine that any organization as large as this one does not have its toxic elements which communicate the plague to others and require identification and expulsion from time to time. We have only to look at the banking industry, the Catholic Church, schools which have supported child abuse, even psychoanalytic organizations of the seventies to see that organizations and institutions (in the person of their governance) regardless of how salubrious their causes can and do go down that slippery slope to iniquity and must be monitored frequently. One cannot completely avoid toxic organizations indefinitely I think but only work toward detoxifying them. To lump/mass everyone together into the category of torturer (by not specifying WHO in APA is villainous) only serves to mirror the slippery slope of failing to distinguish between what is ethical/moral and humane and what is disgraceful/abhorrent and beneath contempt. In addition, it is interesting how much the regular psychologist, whether APA member or not, benefits from the actions of this organization, be it financial, educational or in determining directions for practice. So now, which element is unethical?

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AZWarrior ✓ • 3 years ago



After all these decades, I see we are still ruled more by a political agenda than by the science. This is why I must resign. As a commissioned Officer of the United States Military, I have a higher responsibility and a clear oath of office to live up to, and I refuse to join with those who enjoy the freedoms that the United States provides while refusing to participate in the preservation of those very freedoms.

I am not surprised because even decades ago during my studies I saw the tendency of Psychology to act out against the fact that we were, and still remain, subordinate to Psychiatry. (No never be allowed to prescribe so get over it.) For everyone's sake drop the leftist politic correctness agenda. It is not science based but simply a manifestation of the desire to be "relevant" among your peers - OK for the cocktail party circuit but not true to the science and certainly not appropriate for the continuation of our Constitutional Republic.



certainly not appropriate for the continuation of our Constitutional Republic.

My advice would be to not get too comfortable in your smug self-righteousness and please try not to break your arms patting yourself on your back as there is a world of danger for the Republic from evil such as you have never experienced, nor ever have imagined. I am not advocating torture - as defined by international norms rather than personal political agendas - but there are some basic pragmatic choices to be made and life is not some weekly television show or the usual gathering of like minded people in the echo chamber of isolated academia. It is something else and it is fragile. Here is a thought experiment: Would you allow your children to be killed by terrorist with a nuclear device so that an interrogation source not be made 'uncomfortable'? That is no longer the hyperbole of the cold war years, but the stark emerging reality of the Islamic Wars. I know it, I have lived it and I want to keep all of you from their not-so-gentle clutches. They see Psychology not as a helping science, but as a weapon, and one not to be tolerated in the world that they are building through applied violence. If you won't defend your nation, then defend yourselves, your loved ones and your profession.

Good bye, and good luck.

David K. Pickard, Major
USAF (Retired)

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Caribou "Dumped" Barbie™ → AZWarrior✓ • 3 years ago

WOW!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Rene Puliatti • 3 years ago

American Psychological Association Board of Directors,

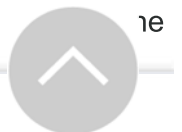
Dear colleagues,

The California Psychology Internship Council (CAPIC) shares the deep concerns of our fellow psychologists, as well as the public, regarding the American Psychological Association's (APA's) appalling actions as revealed most recently in the Hoffman report. It is extremely troubling to learn that the APA leadership colluded with the Department of Defense to permit abusive interrogations and essentially facilitate torture. As the profession as a whole has been discussing since the release of the Hoffman Report, these acts are absolutely in direct violation of our core principles, violate the public's trust in our profession, and undermine our ability to serve our patients. It is also unnerving how fully the APA leadership intentionally, repeatedly and dismissively misled its own members and the public regarding its position, even after direct inquiries. We cannot emphasize enough how this second violation deeply undermines our trust in the APA and its ability to lead our profession.

However, CAPIC also reaffirms statements by the California Psychology Association and others that these abhorrent actions and positions do not represent our ethics and values, and overwhelming majority of psychologists

[see more](#)

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D Kory → Rene Puliatti • 3 years ago



This is a fabulous response, nice work, CAPIC. I, myself, did a CAPIC, not APA, internship that would not have been available to me were these new requirements in place. Every effort should be made to fight against this APA-internship-only program that is in the works, and it should be done in the name of economic and racial inclusivity. The cost of going through a professional psychology training program is already so astronomical that it de facto limits the possibility of true diversity in this field. Many folks come out of training programs with over \$200K in student loans, and in fact DON'T have the capacity, as you say, to uproot, or to travel several hours a day to APA sites because local sites that serve the underserved aren't APA-accredited. With tuition at around \$32K a year, a requirement of unpaid labor for the first three years that, together with school, allows for very little time to earn supplemental income, and the post-doc requirement (in California) in which you're either being paid minimum wage, no wage at all, or are lucky enough to find someone to supervise you as a psych assistant, in which case you collect your hours so slowly that it can take several years to fill the requirement (and are trapped in the purgatory of being a "psych assistant"), this field has made itself inaccessible to the folks who are most needed in the struggle to change the culture of our profession.

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Kevin Harris • 3 years ago



As a White American heterosexual male from a Christian background, I try to be sensitive to issues of diversity and power. I have been an APA member since 1997, and I was embarrassed to see APA perpetuating an imperialist perspective in supporting the Bush administration's war on terrorism -- accepting and promoting without critique a national policy of American exceptionalism. I hope that the Hoffman report leads APA as an organization and APA member psychologists as individuals to reflect on issues of diversity, power, and multiculturalism, and to recognize how racism, ethnocentrism, nationalism, paternalism, and exceptionalism affect our profession in unexpected ways.

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Margaret • 3 years ago



I am glad to read the comments here, and hope that more psychologists will make comments as well. I resigned APA membership in 2006, but kept division memberships in Trauma (56) and Psychoanalysis (39), two areas of our profession, I think, that are not well represented in APA governance or overall direction. As a psychologist working with trauma survivors, I was especially appalled to discover back in the early 2000s that I am part of a profession that on its highest ruling body-level, in an organization that has far too much (negative) influence in training and far too little influence in forwarding comprehensive mental health care in this country, was also colluding with the government in support of torture. There is no other reason I can think of this happening other than the seduction of money and power. Personally, I don't have hope for the APA, and feel that already the APAs response to the report is too little too late.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Liz • 3 years ago

I appreciate reading the various comments. I hope that APA will censure and launch formal ethics



complaints against all who were part of this. It is not enough to create better processes and policies going forward, although those are essential of course. It is also extremely important for the world to see that APA is willing to "punish" its own who were for too long protected while they caused harm to others.

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Molly Sullivan → Liz • 3 years ago



I agree. There needs to be aggressive accountability and public censure by the APA of APA officials.

APA officials had a a fiduciary duty to be guardians of our organization & its members. If these APA officials were fiduciaries to a trust involving money, there would be serious legal consequences for violating their fiduciary duty. Shouldn't there be significant consequences for violating their fiduciary duty to protect the APA's professional integrity -- for violating their fiduciary duty to uphold the highest moral standards? Isn't the fundamental mission of the APA to help -- not hurt?

APA officials "had strong reasons to suspect that abusive interrogations had occurred" and that association leaders "intentionally and strategically avoided taking steps to learn information to confirm these suspicions." (APA Monitor, vol. 46, No. 8, p. 8. Sept. 2015)

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Mike Conner • 3 years ago



I experienced "waterboarding" once as a volunteer. So I can imagine what it might be like to experience this daily as some detainees did. My grandfather, born on an Indian Reservation in 1898, called what I have to say "poking a bear with a sharp stick."

Hoffman suggested the problem was pervasive throughout APA and it was not just limited to those mentioned in his report.

There is evidence to support the notion that actions have been taken by Division 42 against APA colleagues without disclosure to Division 42 members who might have insisted that elected and appointed leaders speak as individuals and not on behalf of all members.

For example, there was a letter sent to the Coalition for and Ethical Psychology that was also copied by Division 42 throughout APA. That letter took a powerful stance, if not an intimidating stance, against the Coalition. The aforementioned letter is dated October 26, 2012. The response by the Coalition is dated October 31, 2012.

Excerpts from the October 26, 2012 letter, signed by the President of Division 42, and apparently speaking as representative of members:

[see more](#)

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Jeffrey H. Golland • 3 years ago

The scandal of the past 10 years will not be resolved by the latest actions taken by Council. Further

reflection, deliberation and discussion are required. Toward this end the imminent governance organization must be deferred and reconsidered. Consolidating authority to provide more flexible and speedy responses to events is precisely the opposite of what is required at this time.

Jeffrey H. Golland

Fellow

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AWP-CT • 3 years ago

The Association for Women in Psychology – Connecticut Chapter (AWP-CT) is a diverse community of feminists that is invested in the integration of personal, professional, and political power in the service of social justice. AWP-CT challenges unexamined privilege and dominant discourses and consider the ways in which marginalization and oppression impact emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being. There can be no deeper violation of social justice, nor a more blatant example of marginalization and oppression, than APA's involvement in torture as outlined in the recent Hoffman Report.

Because APA has oversight for our profession's Ethics Code, provides accreditation of doctoral programs and internships, lobbies for the guild in terms of healthcare parity, generally represents the face of psychology nationally and internationally, and impacts the professional climate for established and early career psychologists, AWP-CT strongly condemns APA's collusive actions in torture efforts with the DoD as found in the Hoffman Report. AWP-CT also welcomes and supports the proposed corrective steps listed to date on the APA website.

However, we also strongly advocate for additional next steps:

1) Unequivocally state in both the APA Ethics Code and official policy statements that psychologists are barred from participating in any efforts related to the application of torture

[see more](#)

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Avatar

This comment was deleted.



pittipat → Guest • 3 years ago

You should be aware that your state association is closely affiliated with the national organization, and is represented on the APA Council of Representatives. So you have distanced yourself by a couple of inches at most.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Laurie Wagner • 3 years ago

I served on Council for 6 years during the height of the events which the Hoffman report addresses. Below are my remarks regarding the report and APA. I never spoke with Mr Hoffman and yet his report resonated with so much of my experience in governance.

August 4, 2015

REMARKS ON THE

HOFFMAN REPORT BY A COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE IN THE THICK OF IT ALL- 2005 THROUGH

2010

Laurie Wagner, Ph.D.

The Hoffman report, with uncanny accuracy, captures my experience as a Council Representative for Division 39 for six years starting with the PENS Task Force Report through the changes to Ethical Standards 1.02 and 1.03. It helps me understand why I was constantly stonewalled by Steve Behnke, all under the guise of help. He “helped” me write toothless consensus motions I didn’t want. I was told this was the best I could get. Once, while working on the wording

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anne Pratt → Laurie Wagner • 3 years ago



Thank you, Dr. Wagner. I admire you for sticking it out. My own experiences with APA governance (worked on a task force and was briefly a member of a committee) was so distasteful that I didn't want to continue. The manipulation by staff was palpable, as was the confusing and excessively-elaborate structure of the organization.

I recall being a new psychologist, studying the ethics code, hoping to be able to meet its requirements, and feeling proud and a little awed about being part of this profession. I have struggled with ethical dilemmas over the years, consulting with colleagues and experts to come to resolution. My work in the courts challenges me every day, including today, to attend to the conflicting pressures and make the ethical choices. I understand political pressures and the situational pressures we face. But it's our obligation to consistently examine our responses to those pressures, and to stand up to those pressures when it is more important to do the right thing.

I resigned from APA in 2008 over this. Until they commissioned the Hoffman report, APA did absolutely nothing to acknowledge or explore the allegations. Even the publication of Risen's NY Times articles and book did not get APA to budge, until the publicity became far too unfavorable and far too pervasive. Until the outcry was overwhelming, APA's response was to continue to deny, cover up, and blame the accusers. This is appallingly far from the self-searching, honest ethical struggling that is required. These people lost their way.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Philip Spivey → Laurie Wagner • 3 years ago



A powerful witness inside the halls of power. What must those five years have been like for persons of integrity?



I'm glad that you remained, Dr. Wagner, to recount this story. I deeply regret that you were subject to harm at the hands of our leadership. I hope you become an ardent foot soldier of redemption.



  • Reply • Share ›**Robert Marshall** • 3 years ago  

On July 14, The New York Times reported the resignation of three key APA executives in an article headlined, “3 Leave Jobs Over Psychologists’ Involvement in Terrorism Interrogations.” The article states, “The action came days after a scathing report concluded that top officials of the group had colluded with government officials during the George W. Bush administration to assure that the organization’s ethics rules did not bar psychologists from involvement in harsh interrogations about terrorist activity.”

In the official statement on the APA web site announcing the resignations of the three executives, the APA Board put forth unqualified, extensive praise for their contribution to the organization, with no mention of the report. This public display of denial and obfuscation by the APA Board further tarnishes and embarrasses APA and raises grave concerns regarding the ability of this Board to right the wrongs that have been committed.

  • Reply • Share ›**Ali** • 3 years ago  

This comment was originally shared with the APA Council of Representatives on August 3rd, 2015 and is being posted here for all to see.

Dear colleagues,

The eyes of the world turn to psychology this week as we take our first steps forward in responding to the Hoffman Report.

Many perspectives have been shared but one voice that has been missing in this body is that of early career psychologists.

While I don't speak for all early career psychologists, you elected me to the Council Leadership Team to ensure the ECP voice is a part of all organizational and policy decisions.

With that in mind, I have crystallized my thoughts on the crisis facing our field and what we must do next in this short video: https://youtu.be/oziuGmm1Z_U

I look forward to seeing you in Toronto and working together to rebuild our association.

Ali Mattu, Ph.D.

APA Council Representative, Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (Division 53)

Early Career Representative, APA Council Leadership Team

Clinical Psychologist, Columbia University Clinic for Anxiety and Related Disorders

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**Philip Spivey** → Ali • 3 years ago

Thank you, Dr. Mattu, for your clear and impassioned video. You, with others, do not want our organization taken hostage by any authoritarian culture. We must speak out!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Matthew LeRoy** • 3 years ago

Please consider reading Neil Altman's response to the Hoffman report found at:

<http://psychoanalyticactivi...>

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Philip Spivey** → Matthew LeRoy • 3 years ago

Dr. Altman's attempt to parse the pathology that led to a Jekyll and Hyde APA is worth a read. I might take it bit further by saying that between Ego and Id, Id gained the upper hand and forced a dangerous splitting of the APA's Ego (with a marked loss of reality testing) and nullified it's Superego altogether. Proof? "The APA however maintained, right up to the release of the Hoffman report, that psychologists participated in interrogations only to protect detainees." ---Neil Altman

Shakespeare's take on these doings might go something like this: "O God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains." ---Othello

The APA could use some improved discernment in choosing its friends.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Karen Suyemoto** • 3 years ago

Asian American Psychological Association Response to the American Psychological Association's Report of the Independent Review Relating to Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations, and Torture

July 31, 2015

The Executive Committee of the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA), on behalf of the AAPA, wishes to express our sadness and dismay upon reviewing the American Psychological Association (APA)'s Report of the Independent Review Relating to Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations, and Torture.

This is not the first time in the history of our nation or of our profession that foundational understandings and guidelines for legal, ethical, or moral behavior have been ignored or overturned. The current situation raises echoes for us of a dark chapter in American history during World War II when – under the guise of a national security threat – over 110,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, were imprisoned in concentration camps and denied their rights, essentially setting aside the United States Constitution. We are heartened that, unlike the experience of Japanese Americans, it did not take four decades to investigate the events and begin the process of prioritizing ethical and just processes and practices

[see more](#)

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Philip Spivey** → Karen Suyemoto • 3 years ago

"...to prioritize beneficence to others above personal and professional advancement."

Just beautiful.! Should be part of the preamble to the NEWLY REVISED code of ethics.
Thank you.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**D Kory** → Karen Suyemoto • 3 years ago

Beautiful. Thank you.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**D Kory** • 3 years ago

Former APA President and President of the PENS Task Force, Ron Levant, just sent this out today:

Dear Colleagues:

In the wake of the Hoffman Report, we have been thrown into a deeply painful and anguishing crisis as an organization and as individuals.

Such a crisis requires great efforts at soul searching. As I have absorbed the Report over the past few weeks and engaged in my own soul searching, my thinking about my role in APA's interrogation scandal has evolved. It is clear to me now that serious mistakes were made, and I accept responsibility for those that I have made.

First I want to acknowledge that I was wrong about many things regarding PENS. Chief among them I did not take the warnings from the Coalition for Ethical Psychology seriously during 2005-06. I also regret the documented efforts to oppose the Coalition in myriad ways and to prevent them from having a place at the table over the next 9 years, although I was not a part of that effort, having left APA governance in 2006. In retrospect, it is clear that they were right, and I apologize to them for not taking their concerns more seriously.

My greatest personal regret is placing too much trust in several APA staff members and assuming

[see more](#)

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**D Kory** • 3 years ago

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Dear Colleagues:

In the wake of the Hoffman Report, we have been thrown into a deeply painful and anguishing crisis as an organization and as individuals.

Such a crisis requires great efforts at soul searching. As I have absorbed the Report over the past few weeks and engaged in my own soul searching, my thinking about my role in APA's interrogation scandal has evolved. It is clear to me now that serious mistakes were made, and I accept responsibility for those that I have made.

First I want to acknowledge that I was wrong about many things regarding PENS. Chief among them I did not take the warnings from the Coalition for Ethical Psychology seriously during 2005-



them I did not take the warnings from the Coalition for Ethical Psychology seriously during 2005-06. I also regret the documented efforts to oppose the Coalition in myriad ways and to prevent them from having a place at the table over the next 9 years, although I was not a part of that effort, having left APA governance in 2006. In retrospect, it is clear that they were right, and I apologize to them for not taking their concerns more seriously.

My greatest personal regret is placing too much trust in several APA staff members and assuming

[see more](#)

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paul.g.mattiuZZi, ph.d. • 3 years ago



Just published at the Huffington Post:

"The Stanford Prison Experiment (2015) Movie Trailer: An Allegory for the APA Ethics-Torture Fiasco"

I would paste in the link, but I understand that triggers a review of the comment. You can find it at HuffPo with this search term: mattiuZZi apa

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Philip Spivey → paul.g.mattiuZZi, ph.d. • 3 years ago



Caught this well-written post. It scared me a little that Zimbardo lost his reality testing, too, and was very reluctant to terminate what was, in fact, cruelty-in-progress, A room-full whom were spellbound.

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Diane Gartland → Philip Spivey • 3 years ago



During the NOLA convention of 2006, Levant was on one side of the convention building naively extolling the Guantanamo set up where he had gone on a site visit and had been shown only what they wanted him to see while Phil was on the other side playing Cassandra. Phil learned from his experience in the seventies and he provided a forward to a 2009 edition of Milgram's Obedience to Authority (1974). His whole life has been devoted to preaching to others how vulnerable we all are. I think though, as one becomes increasingly narcissistically challenged, one is more vulnerable to just about any good con.

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anonime911 • 3 years ago



Behnke's representative, Louis Freeh, had an opportunity to present evidence to contradict the factual findings of the report, but he did not do so. Instead, Freeh claimed that the APA was complicit because they knew, he argued that they were hypocrites, and he vaguely gestured that the report had misrepresented Behnke's intentions. Behnke's hiring of a former FBI director (and his brother's boss, raising the independent judgment flag) speaks to the probability of c and his continuing bad ethical judgment.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Henry Steinberger • 3 years ago



**Henry Stemberger** · 3 years ago

I believe I am here clearly laying out suggestions on how to improve the consequences and apology that APA does not seem able to provide. Having read the APA response to the Hoffman report I'm disappointed that APA allowed the offenders to 'retire' (I assume with full pensions) rather than be dismissed. The glowing tributes to each retiree seems to counter any aspect of wrong doing. After so many years of covering up the wrong doing, it seems like coming clean and admitting specifically why and for what APA is apologizing should be clear so as to be more acceptable to those of us outraged by this betrayal of our member's trust.

When we help clients to apologize, we coach them in what a 'real' apology includes. Not just a 'sorry you didn't like my behavior, but let me explain and defend myself,' but rather a specific account of what the person in question acknowledges doing wrong and some sort of sincere effort to make amends. I don't see that at all in the APA response. I see an ongoing attempt to explain, minimize and dismiss all of the unethical behavior. Psychologists lose their licenses over lesser misdeeds. What more can one say?

(Sorry I mistakenly posted this on the other comment site reserved for those mentioned in the report. Now I want to see whether our 200+ comments get the same attention at those of those accused of maleficence in office.)

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**D Kory** · 3 years ago

I asked folks at the APA why some of these comments took so long to post, and apparently if you paste in a link, it automatically flags it for review (to prevent against spam bots) or if there are any cuss words. So I'm pasting in, rather than linking to, the LA Times editorial appearing today written by Jean Maria Arrigo and Roy Eidelson:

The American Psychological Association is in Crisis
By Roy Eidelson, Jean Maria Arrigo

Last December, a Senate Intelligence Committee report laid bare the extensive involvement of individual psychologists in the CIA's black-site torture program. Then, in early July, a devastating independent report by a former federal prosecutor determined that more than a decade ago APA leaders — including the director of ethics — began working secretly with military representatives. Together they crafted deceptively permissive ethics policies for psychologists that effectively enabled abusive interrogation of war-on-terror prisoners to continue.

These revelations have shocked and outraged not just psychologists but also the public at large. After all, the APA's ethics code for psychologists governs not only its 80,000 members but also

[see more](#)

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**Philip Spivey** → D Kory · 3 years ago

Funny how upside down our world has become: No one is held accountable for behavior---least-wise the rich and powerful; the world of merchandising has brought new-and-improved gizmos and food products that grow smaller and smaller as time goes on; our institutions---and its leaders--- have become more untrustworthy and

corrupt; our thirst for a rational, balanced and trustworthy civilization grows by the day. Even our own professional organization has succumbed to its own "success". If this is progress, you can have it.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



rawbingham • 3 years ago

You don't want any real discussion of ideas. You want to establish the APA narrative.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Elaine Orabona Foster • 3 years ago

How dare APA implicate military psychologists as torturers! Don't they realise we have a code of conduct as officers? I often wondered why military psychologists wanted nothing to do with the

Advancing psychology to benefit society and improve people's lives



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