



Position Statement: International Conference on Industrial and Organizational Psychology (ICIOP 2016)

A joint statement issued by the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA) and the Society for Industrial and Organisational Psychology of South Africa (SIOPSA).

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The undersigned signatory organizations, being national bodies of organized psychology in South Africa and representing South African psychology professionals, have noted with concern that the International Conference on Industrial and Organizational Psychology (ICIOP 2016) to be hosted by the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology (WASET) will be taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa, during January 2016. Ordinarily we welcome scholarly, academic and practice-oriented psychology conferences in our country. However, the ICIOP 2016 has raised numerous concerns which the general body of psychologists, psychology professionals, academic institutions, the statutory regulators of the profession and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DoHET through the ASSAF) need to be aware of. Some of these are:

1. The event is being organised by the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology (WASET) which is included in Beall's list of questionable publishers, also known as predatory publishers. See <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>. The DoHET has taken a strong stance against Journals in this category during the past 12 months.
2. The ICIOP 2016, rather strangely, will include papers on any and all aspects of psychology, not specifically industrial and organizational psychology – this is quite odd for a specialist discipline conference. The conference website indicates the following as some of the topics to be included: Cells and Synapses; Education in Math, Science, and Technology; Genes, Molecules, Channels and Receptors; Sport Psychology, etc. Therefore, the ICIOP 2016 could be misleading potential participants who may expect it to be an industrial and organisational psychology conference.
3. Further, areas such as psychopathology, clinical diagnosis and the like are areas outside of the industrial psychologists' scope of practice. Areas represented in an IO Psychologists' conference may be construed as endorsement of out of scope work from the IO psychology community, which is not aligned to the regulations and provisions of the Health Professions Act.
4. An examination of the call for papers for the conference reads as a 'cut and paste' from a vast alphabetised list of general academic topics, and not specifically psychology-related. Only topics from "a" - "e" appear to have been cut and pasted.
5. The conference website invites paper submissions for the journal Advances in Industrial and Organizational Psychology (see <https://www.waset.org/conference/2016/01/johannesburg/ICIOP>). The link for this journal goes through to a generic page for the International Science Index (<http://>

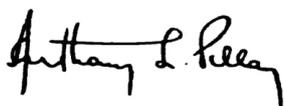
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iastem.com), a measure that has no standing in the scholarly community and could very well be non-existent. Further, academics and researchers are warned that publications in this Journal are not subsidised by the DoHET.

6. It is usual for journals who publish open access work to be registered on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) portal (see <https://doaj.org/about>) but this journal does not appear on the DOAJ. Furthermore claims are made on the conference website about submitting conference proceedings to Thomson Reuters, Scopus, EBSCO and others, but there is no live link to these sites which would usually be the case in reputable academic conferences.
7. International conferences on specialised areas (like industrial and organizational psychology) held in any country are generally organised in collaboration with and hosted by the specific country's professional association for that discipline. There is no national professional association collaborating with the ICIOP 2016 Conference.
8. Strangely, this link <http://www.iuit.org/conference/2016/07/venice/ICIOP> also leads to an ICIOP 2016, but in Venice, Italy in July 2016. The webpage and information are almost identical to the Johannesburg ICIOP 2016.

As professional associations representing a large body of psychologists in South Africa, we urge psychology professionals to take note of the anomalies associated with ICIOP 2016 and the organization behind it. We, therefore, caution against participation in the event.

We also hope that psychologists and related professionals are aware of the international condemnation of predatory publishers and, as representative psychology organisations of South Africa, we are determined not to encourage such developments in our country. To this end we suggest that universities and national academic and scientific bodies alert their staff and students to these serious concerns.



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On behalf of
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