

## Newsletter Sektion Politische Psychologie, Februar 2017

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#### **THE SOCIETY OF INDIAN PSYCHOLOGISTS (SIP) STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO BUILD A WALL BETWEEN WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE US AND WHAT IS KNOWN AS MEXICO**

##### **Approved by the SIP EC January 27, 2017**

The Society of Indian Psychologists strongly opposes President Trump's proposal to build a wall between what is known as the United States of America and what is known as México. Except for the Native North Americans and their descendants who dwell in the area, everyone else is an immigrant. For children of immigrants, including the 45th President, to build a wall in order to discourage immigration is hypocrisy at its highest level. History teaches us that nations who build walls do so out of fear, and that walls historically have been symbols of perceived national weakness. As Native people, we believe fear is an internal (within person) problem requiring an internal (often spiritual) intervention. We do not support activities that externalize fear as this particular proposal does. We also do not see the U.S. as a weak entity as would be suggested by building a wall. Furthermore, SIP views the wall proposal for what it is at its very core, an act of symbolic racism toward particular people, which we cannot support.

In particular, we believe the following truths speak to our opposition to the proposed wall:

1. The border between these "countries" is an arbitrary border that was created by colonial powers. In fact, the land in question was not given to either nation, and was in fact taken away forcibly from the Native North American people in the area.
2. The proposal does not acknowledge the history of the people that live in the region. Native North Americans predate these colonial boundaries, and in fact many families, communities, and nations have relatives dwelling on both sides of this arbitrary border. Building a wall will create a true division of people who have historically dwelled together, and will perpetuate and intensify the psychological harm that the arbitrariness of borders has created in the first place.
3. The funds that will be used to build the wall would be put to better use to address the amazing array of health, mental health, and educational disparities in the U.S. today. We believe very strongly that building the wall is an unnecessary waste of financial and human resources. A wall will not strengthen the U.S., but addressing educational injustices, poverty, social injustice, and psychological and social well-being for citizens would most certainly strengthen it.
4. We stand with our Latino/a citizens and marvel at the injustice of the symbolic message being sent to that community. We abhor the stereotyping of this population that has occurred in order to justify this thinly veiled act of symbolic racism. We see the wall as an act of intimidation and bullying that is meant to convey aspects of white privilege and supremacy that are not welcomed among a nations of immigrants. As the ones who dwelled in this land first, we do not accept the flawed rationale for its construction by its supporters.

## TERMINE VERANSTALTUNGEN

### 1. 22. Deutscher Präventionstag

Der Jahreskongress findet am 19. und 20. Juni 2017 zum Schwerpunktthema "Prävention & Integration" in Hannover statt. Hier (<http://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/jahreskongress>) finden Sie weitere Informationen zum Kongress.

### 2. Webinar Extremismus

In Kooperation mit dem Deutsch-Europäischen Forum für Urbane Sicherheit e.V. (DEFUS) startet im Februar eine neue Reihe von Webinaren (Online-Seminaren) zum Thema "Extremistische Radikalisierung - Herausforderung für Kommunen und Möglichkeiten der Prävention". Der Auftakt wird mit einem Beitrag von Herrn Prof. Dr. Andreas Beelmann (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena) am 20. Februar 2017 von 16 bis 17 Uhr gemacht. Hier ([https://events-emea1.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/2249286962/en/events/event/shared/2292394972/event\\_registration.html?sc\\_o-id=2292956835&campaign-id=dpt-info&\\_charset=utf-8](https://events-emea1.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/2249286962/en/events/event/shared/2292394972/event_registration.html?sc_o-id=2292956835&campaign-id=dpt-info&_charset=utf-8)) können Sie sich für das Webinar registrieren.

### 3. Tagung des Forums Friedenspsychologie vom 16. bis zum 18. Juni 2017 in Chemnitz

Wir möchten Sie auf die 30. Tagung des Forums Friedenspsychologie vom 16. bis zum 18. Juni 2017 in Chemnitz mit dem Thema „No Justice, no Peace? Friedenspsychologische Perspektiven auf soziale Ungleichheit“ hinweisen. Keynote Speaker wird Felicia Pratto (University of Connecticut) sein.

Anmeldungen von Beiträgen (Symposien, Einzelvorträge und Poster) sind aus allen Bereichen der Psychologie möglich. Beiträge können bis zum 15.3.2017 eingereicht werden. Nähere Informationen zur Einreichung und den Call for Papers finden Sie hier ([https://www.tu-chemnitz.de/hsw/psychologie/professuren/sozpsy/ffp2017\\_Beitr%C3%A4ge.php](https://www.tu-chemnitz.de/hsw/psychologie/professuren/sozpsy/ffp2017_Beitr%C3%A4ge.php)).