

The World in WAIMH

In June of 2013, the editors of the *Perspectives in Infant Mental Health* announced the birth of an occasional column, *The World in WAIMH*, intended to generate reflection and dialogue on the roles of context, culture, and community in infant mental health around the world. Our shared hope is that this will offer a space for questioning, challenge, dialogue and interdisciplinary discussion. We are calling for:

- commentary,
- field reports,
- case studies,
- concept or theory building papers,

- research articles,

- book reviews,

- literature reviews,

- and (when proper permission can be obtained) adaptations of previously published articles

In our globalized world, every infant and family is affected by forces far beyond their reach, forces that may strengthen, hinder, or undo the work of infant mental health professionals. To be a truly global organization, WAIMH will increasingly need to understand and develop strategies to address these forces. To foster healthy early development around the world, WAIMH will need to extend its reach, and to learn from contexts, cultures and communities that are not or only minimally represented in its current membership. Among the many questions to answer are:

- What processes can contribute to a more inclusive and expansive knowledge base?

- What kinds of partnerships – with members of cultures not yet represented within WAIMH, with other organizations, with other disciplines such as cultural anthropology or community psychology – are needed to truly put the world in WAIMH?

We look forward to your reflections and hope that vigorous dialogue in this reflective space will ensue. Joshua Sparrow, Director of Planning, Strategy and Program Development at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center (Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School), conceived of this column and coordinates it.

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What follows is a piece from the 2014 Summer issue of *Perspectives*, "What to do about the Babies? Ten Questions for Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King."



What to do about the babies? Ten Questions for Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King (reprint)

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This piece was first published in *Perspectives in Infant Mental Health* Vol. 22 No. 2-3 (Summer 2014) at the time of the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Since then more violence: more innocent African American boys and young men have been murdered, more terrorist attacks - in Paris, Orlando, Nice, San Bernardino, Berlin and elsewhere. Fear and hatred are on the rise, trumping reason, and the unacceptable is at risk of becoming the new normal. We turn again to Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela to reaffirm what is good and right, and to ask what we all can do for babies and their families.

Q. 1. What is going on?

A. I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Acceptance Speech on the occasion of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, December 10, 1964

Q. 2. Where does it start?

A. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate,