



*"Life is a passage from mystery to mystery.*

*That is the wonder and the terror of being human."*

*-Combs, *The Radiance of Being**

**Allan Leslie Combs (1942 – 2025)**

## **Call for Papers**

**Commemorative Edition of the *Journal of Conscious Evolution* for Allan Leslie Combs**

**Edition Title: "Combs & Consciousness"**

**Call for Papers Deadline: December 1st, 2025**

**Expected Publication Date: January, 2026**

To celebrate the life and legacy of Allan Leslie Combs, Professor Emeritus at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS), the editors of the *Journal of Conscious Evolution* (JCE), a journal that Combs created to foster engaged scholarly research, issue a call for papers relating to the life, legacy, and scholarship of Combs.

A distinguished author, teacher, and mentor, Combs devoted himself to the study of consciousness, authoring over 250 publications on consciousness and the brain, including *Synchronicity*, *The Radiance of Being* (which won the 1996 best book award from the Scientific and Medical Network) and *Consciousness Explained Better*. He founded the [\*Society for Consciousness Studies\*](#) and served on the faculties of several graduate programs, most recently as professor and director of the CIIS Center for Consciousness Studies in the *Transformative Studies Department* (TSD).

Known widely for his exemplary and wide-ranging scholarship on consciousness, excellence in teaching, and mentorship of young scholars, Combs was a beloved teacher, mentor, and friend, whose magnanimous presence united diverse communities. He embodied deep understanding of several fields, as indicated in this statement on the nature and development of consciousness:

One thing of value learned along the way is that spontaneous, natural intelligence shines effortlessly, like morning light bursting through an open window, when the mind is made clean and clear of the incrustations that life deposits upon it. This is the gift and genius of the wondering Taoist poet and of every child. Sophistication however must be constructed by building the lessons of life into a flexible dynamic mental system -an intelligent mind. Wisdom arises when these two mature and support each other. (Combs, 2002, pp. 287-288)

Hope, optimism, and mysticism are themes in Combs's emergent theory of consciousness. He identified a paradigm shift to a "post-reductionist worldview" that naturally leads to a recognition of the importance of the study of consciousness that is post-physicalist.

### **Call for Papers**

We invite submissions that explore and reveal impacts from Allan Leslie Combs on themes related to the *Journal of Conscious Evolution* and Combs's own research interests. A variety of paper topics are solicited, including: personal stories of Combs's impact on one's research and personal development; exploration of themes in Combs's research and pedagogy; or an inquiry into any of the many themes related to Combs, his life and research.

### **Themes to Explore**

- Conscious Evolution
- Human Growth
- Consciousness
- Systems Thinking
- Chaos Theory
- Transdisciplinary Scholarship
- Perennial Philosophy
- Integral Consciousness
- Gebser and Consciousness

These themes are only suggestions intended to deepen our understanding of the teaching, research, and legacy of Allan Leslie Combs. You are welcome to address other themes not listed here.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

- **Title page** and an **abstract** using APA formatting (~150–250 words)
- **Brief author bio** with professional and/or academic affiliations (~100 words)
- **Full paper** in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word or RTF.

*Please make your submission using the following form:*

<https://digitalcommons.ciis.edu/cgi/submit.cgi?context=cejournal>

## About JCE

The *Journal of Conscious Evolution* (JCE) is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to exploring consciousness, conscious evolution, and transdisciplinary inquiry as they relate to human growth, transformation, and planetary well-being.

Originally founded by Allan Leslie Combs (1942-2025), Professor Emeritus at CIIS, JCE highlights outstanding work from both students and professional scholars around the world. We invite submissions in APA (student or professional) style but also consider MLA or Chicago styles. We encourage students to submit revisions of high-quality course papers for publication.

While we do not serve as a substitute for institutional writing centers, we offer editorial guidance and may refer authors to additional writing support as needed. Published through the CIIS Library's Digital Commons platform, JCE provides a professional forum for innovative and integrative scholarship. It is an excellent venue for students to gain publication experience and for scholars to share transformative work with a global audience.

We look forward to your submissions and the opportunity to explore the impact, research, and legacy of Allan Leslie Combs with you.

## Warm regards,

*Editors at Journal of Conscious Evolution*

Now that all is said and done, I find myself at my own beginning, discovering consciousness as the illumination of each instant before it is obscured by its own content.

For as far back as I can remember my own consciousness has seemed to me to be absolutely real and unwavering. I was fascinated by it and that fascination eventually led to study and a career in the sciences of the mind and brain. As a student I learned to my amazement however that there were others who did not find it interesting or who denied its existence entirely! Much has changed since those days, both in my own life and in science as well. The study of consciousness has since become not only legitimate but even fashionable. Nevertheless, conferences, professional meetings, and even popular books on consciousness often seem to entirely miss my original idea. They speak of behavior, they speak of cognitive networks, they frequently speak of neurons and the brain, but they too rarely speak of the simple luminous reality that undergirds all experience - consciousness.

My personal search for an understanding of consciousness led me like many in my generation into a variety of philosophies spiritual practices and even martial arts. These included Taoist meditative practices, yogic disciplines T'ai Chi, and Jungian analysis. My intellectual search has moved between mysticism, esotericism, the sciences of the mind and those of the brain. You have followed a model of this journey cleared up a bit and organized for this book

One thing of value learned along the way is that spontaneous, natural intelligence shines effortlessly, like morning light bursting through an open window, when the mind is made

clean and clear of the incrustations that life deposits upon it. This is the gift and genius of the wondering Taoist poet and of every child. Sophistication however must be constructed by building the lessons of life into a flexible dynamic mental system -an intelligent mind. Wisdom arises when these two mature and support each other.

Life is a passage from mystery to mystery. That is the wonder and the terror of being human. This book is my own story, my own truth. Each of us must finally write our own stories. If this tale of mine in some small way contributes to your own evolving story this would be my greatest honor. (Combs, 2002, pp. 287-288)

#### Books by Combs:

Combs, A. (2002). *The radiance of being: Understanding the grand integral vision: living the integral life* (2nd ed). Paragon House.

Combs, A. (2009). *Consciousness explained better: Towards an integral understanding of the multifaceted nature of consciousness* (1st ed). Paragon House.

Combs, A., & Holland, M. (1990). *Synchronicity: Science, myth, and the trickster* (1st ed). Paragon House.