



Fall 2015

East-West Psychology Newsletter

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SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:

- **EWP Turns 40!**
- **Students represent EWP internationally at conferences**
- **Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jorge Ferrer**



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EWP NEWS!

SECOND EDITION

FALL 2015

Happy Harvest!



*"The leaves are falling, falling
as if from far up,*

*as if orchards were dying high
in space.*

*Each leaf falls as if it were
motioning "no."*

*And tonight the heavy earth
is falling,*

*away from all other stars in
the loneliness.*

*We're all falling. This hand
here is falling.*

*And look at the other one. It's in
them all.*

*And yet there is Someone, whose
hands infinitely calm, holding up all
this falling. "*

"Autumn" - Poem by

Rainer Maria Rilke

Student Group, ERIE, Becomes a Bona Fide 501 (c) (3)!

Entheogenic Research, Integration, and Education (ERIE), a student group at CIIS founded by those enrolled in the course EWP 6537 "Entheogenic Shamanism," was recently recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt educational organization! ERIE is a group dedicated to the development of entheogenic research and integration models. The word "entheos" (Greek

for "god within") was once used to describe a state of rapture and possession by a metaphysical force. By combining "entheos" with "gen" (an "act of becoming"), Ruck et al. (1979) proposed the term "entheogen" to describe shamanic and ecstatic states induced by the ingestion of mind-expanding substances.

<http://www.erievision.org/>



East-West Psychology Turns 40!



"Education is indeed the most effective agency by which genuine change of human consciousness and enduring transformation of human behavior can be accomplished" Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri

In 1975, Dr. Kimberly McKell, pictured left with the founders of CIIS, Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri and his wife Bina, proposed an idea: What about a department bridging ancient Asian wisdom and integral Western psychology? He was intrigued. What might such a department be called? Her reply: "East-West Psychology." And so it was. To a growing group of graduate students, Dr. McKell, educational psychologist Dr. Mary Oliver Tasch, and Asian spirituality expert Dr. Hilary Anderson, taught classes on Tantra, depth psychology, Greek mythology, meditation, Tarot, I Ching, shamanism, and integral thought. The work of Alan Watts was also a formative influence.

From the start, Dr. Chaudhuri intended East-West Psychology as an experiment. What transformative alchemies of learning

and practice (he wondered) might emerge in studies bridging East and West? Dr. Chaudhuri had been a student of Sri Aurobindo, who taught that transformation is essentially experimental, an ongoing work of becoming. To remain viable, to grow to its full stature, every living being must adapt to the demands of its time while remaining true to its origins, values, and identity.

Through four decades of expansion EWP has retained its spirit of experimentation. In our department integral education has grown to include the study and practice of Indigenous knowledge, systems science, entheogenic shamanism, holistic sexuality, and ecopsychology. Our bridge has evolved into a hub, a center in which the directions point outward as well as inward.

Join us as we celebrate 40 years with EWP!

Date: Thursday, December 10, 2015

Time: 5:30-9:30PM

Location: CIIS Lobby 1453 Mission St, SF, CA, 94103

RSVP: email ewp@ciis.edu

EWP Students Present Their Research Nationally, Internationally

Students developing scholarship within the academic community pictured left Hank Obermayer and Vanessa Miller far left



EWP students are representing the dept. all over the world, presenting their research nationally and internationally at academic conferences.

Jean Ann Britt presented a poster presentation, "The Song is Love: a Heuristic Exploration of the *Shipibo Vegetalista* Shaman's Experience of Singing *Icaros* in Ayahuasca Ceremonies. A Report from the Field," at the 16th Annual Institute of Noetic Sciences International Conference, July 22 - 26, 2015 in Oak Brook, IL

EWP Scholarship Recipients

Michaela Aizer - 4th International Transpersonal Conference: The Flowering of Consciousness, Salvador, Brazil Sept. 4-7, 2015

Marta Rubinart - 1st Transpersonal Research Colloquium, Milan, Italy, June 22-23, 2015

Megan Woolover

- The Association for the Study of Women in Mythology, Portland, OR, April 11, 2015

Sylvia Hartowitz

- 46th American Art Therapy Association Annual Conference July 8-12, 2015, in Minneapolis, MN

Seyta Selter

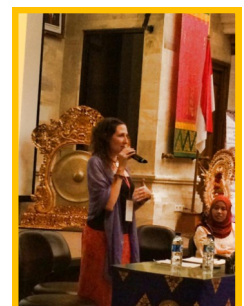
- 32nd Annual conference for the International Association for the Study of Dreams, Virginia Beach, VA June 5-9, 2015

Students presented alongside Dr. Jorge Ferrer at the 1st International Conference in Indonesia for Humanities and Transpersonal Psychology at Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia, July 31-Aug 2, 2015.

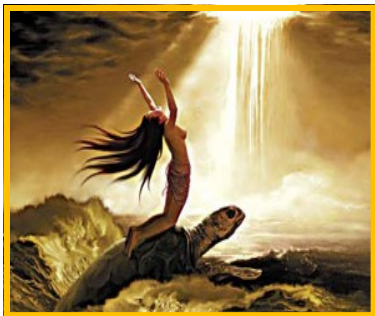
Vanessa Miller

Masoud Aref Nazari

Hank Obermayer



EWP Department Chair Founds Mythology Journal



Dr. Craig Chalquist, core faculty member and department chair in EWP, founded *Immanence: The Journal of Applied Mythology, Folklore,*

A forum for exploring how myth, legend, and folklore appear and reappear today.

and Legend this year. A primary goal of the Journal is to publish digital and hardcopy material—including well-researched articles, interesting personal anecdotes, book and film reviews, and poetry—for readers interested in lively and jargon-free writing on these topics. The journal holds that storied material is best tended from many different

perspectives. Diversity of outlook makes stories and their motifs and images come vividly to life, revealing their ongoing relevance for us.

Immanence accepts well-written articles, anecdotes, poems, book reviews, and film reviews illuminating the ongoing relevance of myth, legend, and folklore, ancient or modern, for how we live today. Upon finishing your work the reader should feel, "Aha! Now I see how these stories, images, and motifs apply to specific situations I encounter." The journal also offers internships to EWP students! Email Craig Chalquist to inquire further: cchalquist@ciis.edu

For more information on submitting an article to *Immanence* check out their webpage: <http://immanencejournal.com/submissions.html>

EWP Alumni Publications and presentations

EWP alumni David Odorisio publishes in the *Journal of Transpersonal Research*!

Odorisio, D. (2015). Of gods and stones: Alchemy, Jung, and the Dark Night of St. John of the Cross. *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, 47(1), 64-82.

EWP alumna Mary Trouba, has been sharing her research this summer:

"How Much Does Your Backpack Weigh?": An Archetypal Exploration of Dreams and the Camino Experience, presented at the 32nd annual conference of the International Association for the Study of Dreams (IASD) in Virginia Beach, VA on June 8, 2015.

"Dreaming the Myth Onward: The Psychological Significance of Contemporary Science Fiction Television Series," presented at Awesome Con in Washington, D.C. on May 31, 2015.



Mary Trouba,
EWP Ph.D. 2002



David Odorisio,
EWP Ph.D. 2015

EWP Ph.D.c Accepts Assistant Professorship

Recent Ph.D. candidate Jean Ann Britt has accepted a 3 year contract for a full-time, tenure track, Assistant Professor position at the College of Nursing at Hawaii Pacific University in Kaneohe, Hawaii. She is thrilled to be utilizing her East West Psychology course work to teach in their Transcultural Nursing Certificate! The Certificate in Transcultural Nursing is intended for the nursing student &/or RN or LPN who is interested in enriching their understanding and application of Transcultural Nursing in order to become better equipped to provide culturally competent nursing care.



EWP Doctoral Student Participates in "Standing in Our Power"

EWP Ph.D. student Monica Mody was invited to be a part of "Standing in Our Power" 2015-16 Standing in our Power at the Transformation Leadership Institute (TLI), is an intergenerational network of social justice movement makers who identify as women and girls of color.

SiOP leverages the healing and catalyzing power of the arts, culture, and spirituality, amplifying the voices and visions of women of color social justice leaders and social entrepreneurs, and collectively co-creating new leadership paradigms and practices for our social movements and beyond.

Monica attended the retreat in September and was able to build community, connections, and reciprocity with radical, spirit-led women of color across the world that are not afraid of their power and not afraid to see other women stepping into their power. Way to go, Monica!





California Institute of Integral Studies

East-West Psychology

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**CREATIVE, CURIOUS, MINDFUL,
AND SOCIALLY AWARE**

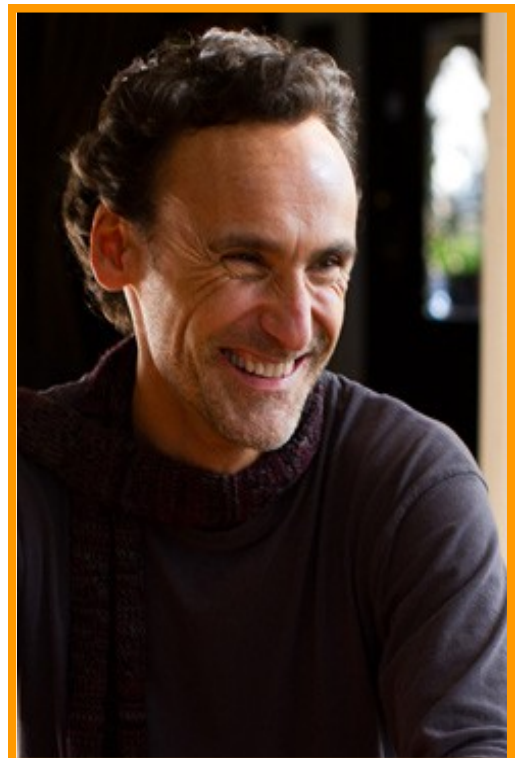
East-West Psychology (EWP) is a multidisciplinary hub and learning community where psychological and spiritual traditions of East, West, and Indigenous cultures from around the world meet to converse and transform each other. Through its unique combination of cognitive, collaborative, and experiential offerings, the department grounds academic excellence and the acquisition of professional skills in both the personal transformation of students and the cultivation of a spiritually informed scholarship. Our graduates deliver their skills to a world yearning for new sources of meaning and enchantment rooted in deep psychologies and ancient traditions.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jorge Ferrer

Dr. Jorge Ferrer has been a professor with EWP for over a decade and is former chair of the program. His areas of focus within the department include transpersonal studies, embodied spiritual inquiry, comparative mysticism, integral development, theoretical research, and spiritual perspectives on sexuality and relationships. While on sabbatical last spring, Dr. Ferrer was filling his days with writing, research, publications, and presentations. He completed an anthology of his writings for SUNY Press that recently received full approval by the Press' Editorial Board, several articles, two book chapters for forthcoming anthologies, and offered workshops and presentations. What follows is just a glimpse of what he's been up to.

Publications

- Ferrer, J. N. (2014). Transpersonal psychology, science, and the supernatural. *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, 46(2), 152-186.
- Ferrer, J. N. (2015). Neo-Piagetian transpersonal psychology: Dancing in-between pluralism and perennialism. Essay Review. *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, 47(1), 124-138.
- Ferrer, J. N. (forthcoming). *Participation and the mystery: Transpersonal essays in psychology, education, and religion*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- Ferrer, J. N. (forthcoming). On the nature and future of transpersonal psychology. In D. MacDonald & M. Almendro (Eds.), *Transpersonal Psychology* [anthology].
- Ferrer, J. N., & Overmyer, O. (forthcoming). Embodied spiritual inquiry: A radical second-person contemplative method and pedagogy. In O. Gunnlaugson, E. Sarath, H. Bai, & C. Scott. (Eds.), *The intersubjective turn in contemplative education: Shared approaches for contemplative learning and inquiry across disciplines*, Vol. 1. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.
- Ferrer, J. N. (forthcoming). Participation, metaphysics, and enlightenment: Reflections on Ken Wilber's recent work. *Approaching Religion*.



Talks and workshops

- Psicologia transpersonal y el paradigma participativo. Espai Gestalt, Barcelona, May 13, 2015.
- Keynote speech: Embodied spiritual inquiry: The four seasons of integral education. *First International Conference in Indonesia for Humanities and Transpersonal Psychology*. Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia, July 31-Aug 2, 2015.
- Workshop: Embodied spirituality. *First International Conference in Indonesia for Humanities and Transpersonal Psychology*. Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia, July 31-Aug 2.