



Fall 2016

East-West Psychology Newsletter

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Recommended Citation

CIIS, "East-West Psychology Newsletter" (2016). *East-West Psychology Newsletter*. 4.
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SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:

- **Transpersonal Psychology debuts in Iran!**
- **Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Craig Chalquist**



Starlings in Winter by Mary Oliver

“Chunky and noisy, but with stars in their black feathers, they spring from the telephone wire and instantly they are acrobats in the freezing wind. And now, in the theater of air, they swing over buildings, dipping and rising; they float like one stippled star that opens, becomes for a moment fragmented, then closes

again; and you watch and you try but you simply can't imagine how they do it with no articulated instruction, no pause, only the silent confirmation that they are this notable thing, this wheel of many parts, that can rise and spin over and over again, full of gorgeous life. Ah, world, what lessons you prepare for us, even in the leafless winter, even in the ashy city.

I am thinking now of grief, and of getting past it; I feel my boots trying to leave the ground, I feel my heart pumping hard. I want to think again of dangerous and noble things. I want to be light and frolicsome. I want to be improbable beautiful and afraid of nothing, as though I had wings. “

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Introduction to Archetypal Activism

EWP Program Chair and core faculty member Dr. Craig Chalquist explores a relevant and timely topic, [Archetypal Activism](#), offering some historical context, action ideas, and examples for a world hungry for transformation. In his own words “If you are a citizen yearning to take intelligent action but not called to the activist path, or an activist burned out from the frustrations and perils of activism, or a sensitive person just plain worried about how events in the world are unfolding, this is for you.”



Transpersonal Psychology Debuts in Iran!



“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



pictured right: Claire Polansky and Monica Mody far right



At the invitation of EWP Ph.D. Masoud Aref Nazari, EWP faculty Dr. Jorge N. Ferrer, along with Chilean transpersonal psychotherapist Natalia Barahona Nosedá, held a seminar and a workshop for Iranian psychologists in May 2016 entitled “Transpersonal Psychology: An Integral Psychology for the 21st Century.” During the event, Dr. Ferrer lectured on the history of transpersonal psychology and its main contributions to the field of psychology, and facilitated interactive meditation practices. Ms. Barahona Nosedá spoke on therapeutic process in transpersonal psychology and the distinguishing features of the transpersonal psychotherapist. The workshop received very positive evaluations from participants and was successful in bringing attention to the field of transpersonal psychology in Iran. The seminar represented the first introduction of transpersonal psychology in the Middle East.

Masoud Aref Nazari was the chair of the psychology department in a prestigious university in Tehran (Iran) before he left in 2009 to study at CIIS. The transformative nature of studies in EWP brought him to a new understanding of psychology, self, and the world. Since then, he has been committed to bring what he learned at CIIS to the younger generation of psychologists in Iran. With his coursework at CIIS finished in 2011, Masoud founded the Nikaram Psychological Center in Tehran, the first transpersonally oriented psychological center in Iran. There he trained several cohorts of students as transpersonal psychologists with much success and decided to open Iran’s Transpersonal Psychology Portal to introduce Transpersonal Studies to a larger audience in his country.

Although transpersonal psychology is quite new in Iran, the workshop with Dr. Ferrer and Natalia created a buzz and was sold out a week before the event took place. The weekend workshop interwove theoretical lecture and experiential practices, thus providing an exemplar of CIIS/EWP integral transformative education.



EWP Students to Present at American Academy of Religion in 2017!

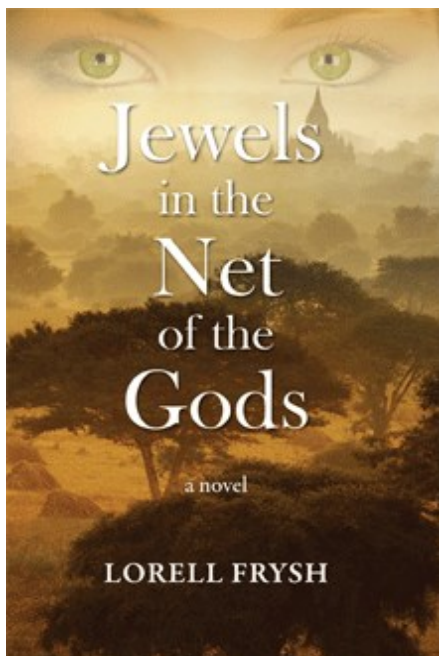
This coming spring EWP has two doctoral candidates who will present their work at the prestigious American Academy of Religion March 17-19 2017.

Claire Polansky’s research primarily explores the psychospiritual crisis of the Jewish diaspora, which led to Zionism, and the eco-psychology behind it with parallels to the current Palestinian struggle for autonomy. This is undertaken through an investigation Friedrich Nietzsche’s psychospiritual crisis and the stages of his reevaluation of values that lead to his mystical ecophenomenology, with the intention of finding the language to contribute to interfaith dialogue and peace negotiations in the Middle East. Nietzsche’s (1954a) statement about Jews “denaturing [their] natural values” (p. 594) serves as a preliminary guide while reflecting on his call for a reevaluation of values and principles in eco-psychology. Furthermore, considera-

tion will be given to the ecosophy of Nietzsche’s Übermensch (German: highest man) with an investigation into Messianism, self-actualization, and plausible interpretations for the collective consciousness within the Middle East. Finally, future implications of Nietzsche’s work are offered in order to illuminate the practical application of Nietzsche’s existential ecophenomenology and his contribution to transpersonal psychology with specific suggestions for the reevaluation of Middle Eastern values which “transcend and include” the old and the new ideas of faith and culture within the land.

Monica Mody’s research explores the implications of borderlands theory put forth by Gloria Anzaldúa, which reveals a liminal zone in between and bridging oppositional binaries, be they the past and the present, the old and the new, the imaginal and the real, myth and history. Through this lens, she offers a critical and creative approach to reimagining and rediscovering the feminine-centric culture of South Asia, which has long been sidelined and suppressed by colonialism, nationalism, and patriarchy. Monica will also present her work at The Association for the Study of Women and Mythology (ASWM) next year as well!





“This brilliant book of wisdom and life lessons is carefully hidden in the disguise of a beautiful story, half poetry and half magic – rich with beauty, mystery and understanding”
—Jonathan Ellerby PhD,

EWP Alumna Publishes New Book

[Lorell Frysh](#), EWP PhD '06, has published a novel! From the Bushmen in Africa to high society in Egypt, from Morocco to the caves of ancient Jerusalem, Moghul India to Medieval France, we meet priests and priestesses, Swamis and monks, midwives and healers, medicine men and aristocrats as we discover the intriguing stories of two souls, and two intertwined destinies.

Kundun, a Tibetan Buddhist Monk, is traveling to meet a Druze Sheik in the hills of the Galilee in order to discuss their common interest in reincarnation.

Liora, a young Jewish woman on a dedicated spiritual quest, finds herself drawn into the ancient courtyard of a monastery in East Jerusalem where she spends her day awash with memories.....of this life, and surprisingly, her past lives.

By the time we have traveled with the two of them on a journey that transcends time and space, we have been taken on a wondrous adventure.

In the process we discover not only where their paths may lead, but the heartwarming wisdom of our own inner journey! Check it out [here](#).

Student & Alumni Publications and Presentations

EWP alumni Judson Davis publishes in the *NeuroQuantology*!

Davis, J. (2016). [The Primordial Mandalas of East and West: Jungian and Tibetan Buddhist Approaches to Healing and Transformation](#). *NeuroQuantology*, 14(2), 242-254.

EWP PhD student, Audra Grady presented “The Art of Engagement: An Ecopsychological Approach to Personal Economics, Organizational Livelihood and Conscious Entrepreneurship” at the Human Science Institute conference, Compassion, Connection and Response-Ability, September 8-10, 2016, at the University of Utah Guest House & Conference Center in Salt Lake City.



Audra Grady,
EWP Ph.D.
student



Judson Davis,
EWP Ph.D. 2012

EWP Alumna Launches “Conversations with Money”

EWP alumna Elizabeth Husserl (MA, 2006) has founded *Conversations with Money*, a vision and a movement dedicated to supporting people in a process of becoming aware of how our daily money conversations play out in our daily life. Break through money stress with a new strategy! The next cleanse begins in January. Ready to start the conversation? Find out more about Elizabeth's program [here](#).



EWP PhDc accepted into UNC Chapel Hill's 2016 Summer Institute

Angela 'Mictlanxochitl' Anderson Guerrero, EWP PhDc and Student Alliance Coordinator at CIIS, is a scholar practitioner and artist whose doctoral studies explore the intersections of epistemology, indigenous knowledge and spirituality. Both her art and her studies are an extension of her spiritual work within traditions of Mesoamerican, Native American, and Andean lineages. This past year she was accepted into the 2016 Summer Institute at UNC Chapel Hill. The experience provided multiple lenses to explore how native, indigenous, and de-indigenized testimonies, and co-created embodied experiences from contemporary spaces claim indigenous knowledges. It offered the rigor and expertise to critically engage the investment and complex relationship of multiple and diverse communities claiming indigenous knowledge. The summer institute also served as an exploratory space to ask how indigenous communities, activists, and scholars work together to reclaim teaching pedagogies and to build accountability among themselves and others sharing land, ways of knowing, and lifeways.





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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. Craig Chalquist

Craig Chalquist, department chair and core faculty in EWP, has been on sabbatical during fall 2016, but he was hardly on a break. His new journal, *Immanence*, which launched last year, published their inaugural issue. The issue was devoted to exploration of the mythic present. You can check out a preview of the issue which debuted on Halloween, [here](#). Craig is also the founding director of a non-profit organization: [The Reenchantment Guild](#), a professional association dedicated to supporting transformative storytellers and performers. Additionally, Craig has been working like a devil on his new myth book, which will come out in 2017, so keep your eyes peeled for updates on that in the next issue of EWP News!

Craig also recently announced that he was offered and accepted Assistant Provost position at Pacifica Graduate Institute. The EWP department would like to offer our deepest gratitude to Craig for his unwavering service, dedication to teaching excellence, steadfast vision, and strong leadership during his tenure at CIIS. While we are very saddened to see Craig go, we are also happy for this opportunity he has before him, and we would like to wish him bless-



ings as he embarks on the next chapter! Before his departure, the department will host an official farewell at CIIS in late January/Early February, so stay tuned for the details.

CONGRATULATIONS, CRAIG! With love, the EWP Community.