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Editors' Introduction

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Editors' Introduction

The first 2010 issue of the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* offers two articles of general interest, as well as a special topic section titled, *Relational Spirituality and Developmental Spirituality* (separately introduced).

The first of our general papers is by Constance Mara, Teresa DeCicco, & Mirella Stroink, entitled, *An Investigation of the Relationships Among Self-Construal, Emotional Intelligence, and Well-Being*. Self-construal is a constructed concept of one's self, and two of the authors of the current paper published an earlier study in this journal introducing a new, more transpersonally-oriented type of self-construal (DeCicco & Stroink, 2007). The literature contained both an independent self-construal, in which the self is firmly bounded and relatively autonomous, and an interpersonal self-construal, in which the self is molded by others and by situations. DeCicco and Stroink proposed a third model, a metapersonal self-construal in which the sense of identity extends beyond the person to include broader aspects of life, community, or world. They then constructed and validated a scale to measure the metapersonal self-construal. The current paper extends this work, showing that a metapersonal self-construal predicts greater well-being and higher emotional intelligence than either the independent or the interdependent self-construals. In other words, an understanding of one's self that is congruent with a more transpersonal view of personhood appears to correlate with positively with well-being and emotional intelligence.

A paper by John Rowan, entitled, *Koans and Levels of Consciousness*, offers an insightful perspective on the Buddhist practice of engaging with koans—those enigmatic questions that seem to have no logical answer. This appears to be their purpose: to push the student

beyond logic, into deeper domains of consciousness. As Rowan notes, there have been discussions on what the “correct” response to certain koans might be. Rowan proposes a different understanding, namely that the answer one gives to a koan might reflect one's level of consciousness. Working within Ken Wilber's model of ascending levels of consciousness—mythic/magic, mental ego, centaur, and so on—Rowan offers a series of responses to several well known koans that might characterize various of those levels.

In the preparation of this issue, the journal is happy to welcome a number of new staff members. First among these is the Special Topic Editor for this issue, Maureen Harrahy. There are also five new Associate Managing Editors, assisting with shepherding articles through the review process: Charles Flores, Cheryl Fracasso, Christian Gaden Jensen, Adam Rock, and Rochelle Suri. In addition, Adrian Andreescu and Zayin Neumann have served as Associate Circulation Editors, supporting work in getting the journal indexed in databases and visible to a larger audience. Following is a short bio on each of these staff members:

Maureen Harrahy, MA, is a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology focusing on teaching, education, and research. Currently, she is working full time on her dissertation research regarding the intersubjective impact of a traumatic event: cancer diagnosis and treatment. She is also focusing on developing her editorial skills as an associate managing editor for this journal and as an editorial board intern for *The Qualitative Report*. Her areas of interest include participatory theory and philosophy, relational psychologies, interpersonal development, social neuroscience and interpersonal neurobiology.

Charles I. Flores, PhD, is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at California State University East Bay, and has taught at John F. Kennedy University, and other universities. A practicing National Certified Counselor in mental health and Master Addiction Counselor with at-risk teenagers, he has worked on issues of diversity, social activism, religious studies, and integral psychology for twenty years. He has recently co-written a chapter in the anthology *Gurus in Modern Yoga* for Oxford University Press, entitled, "Remembering Sri Aurobindo and the Mother."

Cheryl Fracasso, MS, is currently pursuing a PhD in Clinical Psychology at Saybrook University. She serves as adjunct faculty member for the University of Phoenix; Research Assistant at Saybrook University with Stanley Krippner, PhD; and Associate Managing Editor of the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*. Her main areas of research are in the fields of Near-Death Experiences and Energy Medicine. Recent publications with co-author Harris Friedman include: *Near-Death Experiences: Implications for Clinical Practice*; *Near-Death Experiences Among a Small Sample of Iranian Muslims*; and *Psychologists' Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Near-Death Experiences: Change Over Time and Relation to Transpersonal Self-Concept*. She currently resides in the Seattle, Washington area.

Christian Gaden Jensen is a PhD candidate working at the Neuroscience Centre at the Copenhagen University Hospital, in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is investigating whether mindfulness training has a stronger effect on certain individuals who are genetically predisposed to have a stronger correlation than others between emotional coping and health. On the side, he is conducting research in parapsychological and transpersonal issues.

Adam Rock, PhD, is Head of Research and Development at the Phoenix Institute of Australia. Dr. Rock is also a Founding International Board Member of the International Transpersonal Association, President of the Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research, an Associate Editor of *Anthropology of Consciousness*, and an Editorial Board member of the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*. He has published dozens of scholarly articles in prestigious academic journals such as the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, *Transpersonal Psychology Review*, and the *Journal of Parapsychology*. He has been awarded over \$200,000 in research grants. In addition, he has presented or co-presented over 30 papers or posters

at national and international conferences. His research interests include shamanism, altered states, mediumship and psi.

Rochelle Suri, MFT, PhD, holds her doctoral degree in East-West Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies, where she is currently faculty. She is also a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of California and is the Agency Assistant Director for Progress Foundation, a mental health organization in San Francisco. Her areas of research and interest are transpersonal psychology, anthropology, spirituality, and psychopathology.

Adrian Andreescu is a Romanian independent researcher, his primary academic interest focusing on the complex relationship between culture, subjectivity, and health. As Associate Circulation Editor Adrian has been instrumental in getting IJTS indexed in a number of databases. He encourages researchers to self-archive their published papers in open repositories (please consult RoMEO database for publisher's policy) and to use networking websites such as Academia.edu for cross fertilization of ideas.

Zayin Neumann is an author, father, teacher, and student of life. He has traveled around the country and internationally presenting various pieces of his PhD dissertation which he is completing in East-West Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies. His most recent writing on the dialogue between evolutionary and indigenous epistemologies can be found in recent and upcoming issues of the journal *ReVision*. Zayin has facilitated and organized workshops and classes on Embodied Spiritual Inquiry, African Indigenous Technologies, and Integral Cosmology in and around the Bay Area, and is currently working closely with Dagara elder, Malidoma Somé.

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