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Editors' Introduction

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Editors' Introduction

Introduction

The first 2009 issue of the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* offers 4 articles of general interest, as well as a special topic section titled, *Perspectives in Spirituality* (separately introduced). The first of our general papers is by Kevin Bowman titled, *Holarchical Development: Discovering and Applying Missing Drives from Ken Wilber's Twenty Tenets*.

Bowman thoughtfully reconsiders some of the many implications of Ken Wilber's *All Quadrants All Levels* (AQAL) theory, attending to some of its problems and suggesting some important extensions to this approach. This paper evidences that Wilber's seminal work, decidedly transpersonal despite Wilber's recent abandonment of the term *transpersonal*, is not just one that Wilber alone can revise (as in the various self-numbered stages he has used to describe the evolution of his own work), but also one that inspires continued changes by others. The fruitfulness of a theory is one mark of its impact and Wilber's insights continue to inspire work within the transpersonal community. Whether or not readers enjoy Wilber's work, his contributions are undeniably important to transpersonal studies. In addition, Bowman, as an economist, has also added a unique flavor to his treatment of AQAL theory, namely by using it to analyze contemporary political and economic decision-making processes, especially as they might apply to environmental and social causes. In this sense, Bowman's applications of Wilber's work show the vital importance of transpersonal theory for understanding some of the most pressing problems of our time. The transpersonal approach is not just abstract and otherworldly but, instead, also offers helpful conceptualizations applicable to the conventional world that less integrative approaches simply cannot easily grasp.

The next of our general papers is, *Paradigm Shift, Then and Now: The Shakespearean "Winter's Tale" and Renewal Through the Feminine*, by Judy Schavrien. It is not just so-called exotic cultures that bring insights into transpersonal psychology, but the recent past of Western culture itself is fertile with transpersonal implications. Schavrien readdresses the *Winter's Tale* with renewed appreciation from a transpersonal slant, focusing primarily on its vision of the feminine, but also dealing historically with the setting of the play during a time of great shifts in worldviews and social institutions. She also continuously ties her observations into the present day when contemporary humans still struggle with similar change dynamics, demonstrating how an understanding of many issues with contemporary importance were presaged by the great bard in this play, which has often been relegated as one of his minor works. Through Schavrien's explication, the *Winter's Tale* can be reconsidered as perhaps one of his most relevant works to our current struggles. In addition and befitting an article on Shakespeare, Schavrien writes with great wit and fluidity, ensuring that studies of literature remain an important part of transpersonal studies.

We are especially pleased to offer, as our next paper, an inspiring dialogue among some of the founders of transpersonal psychology, namely Miles Vich, James Fadiman, and Stanley Krippner, joined by Mark Schroll and Valerie Mojeiko, titled *Reflections on Transpersonal Psychology's 40th Anniversary, Ecopsychology, Transpersonal Science, and Psychedelics: A Conversation Forum*. In this entertaining and freewheeling discussion, readers can gain a glimpse into the beginnings of the transpersonal movement and how it is interpreted today by some of those who played an essential role in its emergence. This vibrant discussion also deals with many contemporary

issues of importance, such as the relationship between ecopsychology and transpersonal psychology in consideration of the grave risks to humankind that seem to inure from anthropogenic global climate change, as well as the relative pros and cons of U.S. clinical programs in transpersonal psychology increasingly seeking accreditation from the American Psychological Association. This is a must-read for anyone interested in the connectedness of the historical transpersonal movement with its present day evolution.

Our last paper for the general section is *Ayahuasca—From Dangerous Drug to National Heritage: An Interview with Antonio A. Arantes*, by Beatriz Caiuby Labate and Ilana Goldstein. The prominent Brazilian anthropologist, Antonio A. Arantes, is interviewed regarding the many implications of ayahuasca practices potentially becoming officially recognized as part of Brazil's cultural heritage. Unlike most discourse on transpersonal topics, this interview gets into various legalisms in a very sophisticated way, such as dealing with how aspects of immaterial culture can be preserved without deadening them into stagnant parodies of a living tradition. That Brazil as a nation is struggling with how to deal beneficently with an avowedly transpersonal practice, which is affected by various, and often contradictory, laws and agreements, as well as intertwined at so many levels with social institutions (e.g., the implications of ayahuasca tourism on the integrity of indigenous cultures and local economies), demonstrates the need for nuanced applications of transpersonal views.

Together, these four papers provide a fascinating account of how the transpersonal is situated deeply within the larger world. They also point to the likelihood that the transpersonal perspective will become increasingly salient for dealing with global problems that elude the grasp of other, less inclusive perspectives.

Harris Friedman, Editor
University of Florida

Glenn Hartelius, Editor
Institute of Transpersonal Psychology

One of the Editor's Farewell Note

I am pleased to announce that I have accepted the role of Senior Editor of the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* (IJTS), after having served as an editorial board member in 2002 and, since 2003, as Co-editor with Doug MacDonald, then as solo Editor, and most recently as Co-editor with Glenn Hartelius. It is my belief that

journals should not be fiefdoms ruled in perpetuity by editors but, rather, seven years is a sufficient tenure for an editor and then it is time to move on. As Senior Editor, my appointment will be primarily honorific and limited to 3 years, after which I will join the ranks of the other Editors Emeriti. During these 3 years, I will continue to support my current Co-editor, Glenn Hartelius, who will assume the role of solo Editor effective with the upcoming 2010 issue. Glenn received his doctorate from California Institute of Integral Studies in East West Psychology this year and already has published a number of important papers within transpersonal studies. He has been Co-editor of this journal since 2007 and has been *de facto* bearing the brunt of the editorial load since 2008. In addition to his fine editorial work, Glenn serves as a faculty member at the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology. As I transition, I want to thank the previous Editors and Co-editors of IJTS, especially Doug MacDonald whose dedicated work as Co-editor with me for several years was invaluable! I also want to thank the editorial board members and the many manuscript peer reviewers who have helped keep the journal vibrant, as well as our contributors and readers who are discovering the journal in increasing numbers since it has become online. Last, I thank the Floragades Foundation, which continues to provide financial support for IJTS. I step down with full confidence in Glenn's leadership as the journal moves forward in a number of exciting ways as the newly designated journal of the International Transpersonal Association.

Harris Friedman, Editor
University of Florida

Call for Collaboration

Harris Friedman's farewell note would be incomplete without pointing out that but for his personal initiative, perseverance, and charming powers of persuasion, this journal would certainly have disappeared from publication at the end of 2006. He has been a diligent and faithfully supportive mentor and partner in the enterprise of sustaining and renewing the journal.

With his departure from the daily operations of the journal, it is time to put out a call for individuals interested in participating in its preparation and publication. Areas where contribution is needed include the following:

Reviewer

Those interested in reviewing articles for the journal should submit their educational background, as well as area(s) of expertise and interest. Reviewers who

participate regularly and ably may be considered for inclusion on the Editorial Board.

Special Topic Editor

Each issue of the journal typically has a special topic section; individuals interested in guest editing a set of articles on a special topic may submit their educational background along with a proposed topic.

Associate Editor

Persons possessed of vision and enthusiasm and boundless energy are invited to support the further development of this publication in the role of Associate Editor. Interested individuals should submit educational background and experience in academic writing and publishing.

Benefactor

The journal is offered online without cost, in part because this allows its articles to reach a wider audience—especially readers with compatible interests who may not be acquainted with the transpersonal community. It has run on a meager budget for several years, and its operations could be both enhanced and expanded through additional funding. Tax-deductible charitable donations to support the journal are welcomed.

As the second longest running transpersonal journal, the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* continues to contribute to transpersonal thought and literature in a contemporary context. Yet its preparation and publication requires collaboration with many parts of the transpersonal community. For those interested in participating in this process, application for any of the aforementioned positions can be made to Glenn Hartelius at payattention1@mac.com

Glenn Hartelius, Editor
Institute of Transpersonal Psychology

