

Editors' Introduction

We are pleased to bring an exciting and diverse array of papers to the first issue of the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* to be distributed online without cost. (Note: this volume will be available for purchase in hard copy form through an on-demand publisher later this year.)

The first paper is jointly authored by a team led by Eli Kolp, and entitled, "Ketamine-Enhanced Psychotherapy: Preliminary Clinical Observations on its Effects in Treating Death Anxiety." This important paper publishes initial findings on the potentially beneficial off-label use of ketamine, a legally available hallucinogen, in the clinical treatment of terminal patients. The work presented here represents a long-awaited opportunity to continue the careful efforts of early researchers in the field of transpersonal psychology to examine the possible psychotherapeutic benefits of consciousness-altering substances. This is followed by Whit Hibbard's "Reports of Transpersonal Experiences by Non-Native Practitioners of the Native American Sweat Lodge Ceremony: A Critical Appraisal," which explores the beliefs and critical discernment of practitioners with respect to their sweat lodge experiences. The next paper is by Adam Rock and Stanley Krippner, titled "Does the Concept of 'Altered States of Consciousness' Rest on a Mistake?" In this paper, the authors examine whether the term, altered states of consciousness, carries misleading implications, and whether it should be replaced by new terminology. Paul Cunningham's paper, titled "The Challenge, Prospects, and Promise of Transpersonal Psychology," follows-up an earlier work published in the 2006 *IJTS* and provides opportunity for him to

thoughtfully examine the field of transpersonal psychology in a stimulating way, lending needed perspective to its continued unfolding.

In our special topics section, "Applying Quantitative Research Methods in Transpersonal Psychology," which we introduce separately prior to the two papers that compose this section, namely Sharon Solloway and William Fisher's "Mindfulness in Measurement: Reconsidering the Measurable in Mindfulness Practice" and Teresa DeCicco and Mirella Stroink's "A Third Model and Measure of Self-Construction." These papers demonstrate how carefully adapted quantitative analysis can provide support to central areas of research and theory in transpersonal psychology.

Lastly we present two book reviews that are edifying pieces in their own right. The first, by Gene Thursby, looks at *The Untethered Soul*, by Michael Singer, a book that the reviewer says, "should become known as a modern spiritual classic." The second, by Elias Capriles, takes the reader on a richly-informed tour of *The Fall*, by Steve Taylor, a work that explores evidence for a long-past golden age that may one day return.

This year has brought a number of major transitions to *IJTS*. After three years under the institutional sponsorship of Saybrook Graduate School (2003-2006), the journal has shifted to the custodianship of Floragrades Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization. In 2003 Saybrook Graduate School adopted *IJTS* from the University of Hawaii, where its tenure had ended with the retirement of the professor who was then one of the journal's editors, Sam Shapiro. After three years with Saybrook under the editorship of Douglas MacDonald and

Harris Friedman, a new administration at Saybrook made the decision to divest itself of the journal. This coincided with the retirement of one of its editors (Harris) from Saybrook as Emeritus Professor. At this same moment, Douglas decided at that time to step down as co-editor of IJTS—and IJTS was in danger of disappearing.

However, Harris was able to convince Floragades Foundation to provide temporary financial support for IJTS. In addition, the Center for Spirituality and Health at the University of Florida, where Harris is now Research Professor, generously donated funds to design a website for the journal (see <www.transpersonalstudies.org>). The British Psychological Society (BPS) also donated generously to make this website interactive, a work that is now in progress. After much debate among the IJTS editorial board, a decision was made to distribute the journal online through its website at no cost. The journal will continue to be available in hard copy through a link that will be established later this year to an on-demand publishing house. The decision to distribute online without cost involves three important factors: (1) e-publishing is virtually without cost, enabling the journal to continue as a viable medium without large-scale institutional support, (2) it provides free access to all equipped to enter cyberspace, which is particularly important for an international journal in which postage can be prohibitively expensive and different national economies can make the journal difficult to purchase by all interested, even if reasonably priced, and (3) given that the cost of a subscription would normally be accepted only by some percentage of readers who are already acquainted with and interested in the transpersonal field, gratis publication of the journal makes its articles widely available to all readers in the field as well as those who might develop an interest through exposure to its content. At the same time, the on-demand printing option permits libraries, authors, and readers to purchase a printed and bound copy of the journal for their own collections at minimal cost.

Along with this change, all former journal editors were given the honorary title of Editor Emeritus. In addition, the title of Honorary Editor was given to Stanley Krippner, who convinced Harris to assume the role of editor and as Academic Dean at Saybrook to advocate convincingly for Saybrook's adoption of the journal when the University of

Hawaii withdrew. Stanley continues to contribute papers to the journal on a regular basis and is an inspiration to us all. Furthermore, two new editorial roles were created, namely that of Managing Editor held by Glenn Hartelius and Coordinating Editor held by Les Lancaster. Les, in his role of Coordinating Editor, will be working with the website, using the BPS funding to allow a more dynamic interplay to be held between authors and readers of the journal. Les is Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Transpersonal Psychology Program at Liverpool John Moores University. Glenn is a student at California Institute of Integral Studies, where he expects to receive the Ph.D. in 2008 specializing in new research tools for somatic, phenomenological, and transpersonal psychologies. Although he has not yet received his doctorate, he has already published several important papers in transpersonal studies, including an extensive synopsis of the definition of transpersonal psychology over a period of 35 years (Hartelius, Caplan, & Rardin, 2007) and a proposal for introducing quantitative measures to the phenomenological study of body-located experience (Hartelius, 2007). Glenn's role was to have been limited to receiving all incoming manuscripts and sending them for peer review, as well as communicating with submitting authors and facilitating their revising accepted manuscripts for publication. His participation has evolved into much more and consequently, effective this 2007 issue, Glenn has agreed to assume the full role of co-editor along with Harris.

Harris Friedman, Editor
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Glenn Hartelius, Editor
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References

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- Hartelius, G. (2007). Quantitative somatic phenomenology: Toward an epistemology of subjective experience. *Journal of Consciousness Studies, 14*(12), pp. 24-56.