

2019 ACISTE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Subject to last minute changes

LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Therapeutic Issues of Spiritually Transformative Experiences

THURSDAY, NOV. 14 th		
12:00 pm- 1:00 pm	Registration/CE Sign in, CE Registration closes at 1:20pm	Hall in front of Legacy B
1:00 pm	EXPERIENCER PANEL with John Stringer, Michael Wadsworth, & Mary Hart. Facilitated by Katrina Michelle, PhD, LCSW, ACMHP	Legacy A and B
2:00 pm	STE Theory 101, Dr. Janice Holden	Legacy A and B
3:05 pm	BREAK	
3:15 pm	STE Theory 101, Dr. Janice Holden cont.*	Legacy A and B
5:00 pm	Grounding Exercise with Selene Kumin-Vega, PhD	Legacy A and B
5:30 pm	Free Cocktails and Hor D'oeuvres	Atrium
FUNDRAISING DINNER		
6:30 pm	Cash Bar and Dinner	Salon 4 and 5
7:00 pm	Welcome and Invocation	Salon 4 and 5
7:15 pm- 7:55 pm	John Stringer	Salon 4 and 5
8:00 pm- 9:00 pm	Matt Kahn	Salon 4 and 5

FRIDAY, NOV. 15 TH		
7:00 am	FREE BREAKFAST IN LOBBY	Atrium
7:00 am	Registration/CE Sign in, CE Registration closes at 8:40am	Hall in front of Legacy B
7:00 am- 7:20 am	Shamanic Morning Prayer Circle: Steve Schmitz, PhD	Salon 4 and 5
8:00 am	Announcements --- Conference Host, Katrina Michelle, PhD, LCSW, ACMHP	Legacy A and B
8:25 am	Keynote Speaker: Tobin Hart, PhD <i>Beyond Integration</i>	Legacy A and B

9:30 am	Main Session Presenter: Steve Schmitz, PhD <i>Shamanic Counseling: An Earth-Based Spiritual Practice for Co-Creating Spiritually Transformative Experiences</i>	Legacy A and B
10:30 am	BREAK	
10:45 am	Main Session Presenter: Michael Garbe, LCSW, DSW(c) <i>Social Work's Role and Spiritually Transformative Experiences</i>	Legacy A and B
11:45 am- 1:00 pm	LUNCH with Experienter Mike Wadsworth	
1:00 pm	Main Session Presenter: Frank Pasciuti, PhD <i>What's To Be Learned From Having A Spiritually Transformative Experience?</i>	Legacy A and B
2:05 pm	Main Session Presenter: Yolaine Stout, B.A. CFRM, ACLSC <i>The Scale and Scope of Therapeutic Issues in STEs: A Summary of the Research</i>	Legacy A and B
3:05 pm	BREAK	
3:15 pm	Main Session Presenters: William Peters, M.Ed., MFT & Monica Williams, MD <i>The Shared Crossing Spectrum: Introducing a Typology of Spiritually Transformative Experiences (STE) at the End of Life.</i>	Legacy A and B
4:20 pm	Main Session Presenter: Marieta Pehlivanova, PhD <i>Support Needs and Outcomes for Near-Death Experiencers</i>	Legacy A and B
5:20 pm	Grounding Exercise w. Selene Kumin-Vega, PhD	Legacy A and B
5:30 pm	Free Cocktails and Hor D'oeuvres	Atrium

SATURDAY, NOV. 16th		
7:00 am	FREE BREAKFAST	
7:00 am	Registration/CE Sign in, CE Registration closes at 8:40am	Legacy A and B
7:00 am- 7:20 am	Shamanic Morning Prayer Circle: Steve Schmitz, PhD	Salon 1
7:20 am- 7:45 am	Drumming Meditation with Edy Nathan, MA, LCSWR, CST	Salon 4 and 5

8:00 am	Announcements		Legacy A and B
8:25 am	Keynote Speaker: Janice Miner Holden, EdD <i>Research results on Comparative Effects of traditional grief therapy vs IADC</i>		Legacy A and B
9:30 am	Main Session Presenter: Richard Knowles, PhD <i>"The Power and Glory of God: A Comparative Review of the Phenomenology of N,N-DMT versus 5-MeO-N, N-DMT"</i>		Legacy A and B
10:30 am	BREAK		
10:45 am	Main Session Presenter: Caroline Fernandes, MS, CCHT, CHWLC <i>Soul Retrieval: From Victim to Healer an Integration of Spiritual Experiences and Transpersonal Trust.</i>		Legacy A and B
11:45 am-1:00 pm	SPONSOR LUNCH		Salon 4 and 5
AFTERNOON BREAK-OUT SESSIONS			
1:00 pm-2:00 pm	Breakout Presenter: Alexander Doman, MD WHAT DOES KABBALAH AND JEWISH MYSTICISM SAY OF THE SOUL AND AFTERLIFE?	Breakout Presenter: Christine Simmonds-Moore, PhD THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POTENTIAL OF ENTITY ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCES	Breakout Presenter: Devi Prem HOW GRATITUDE AFFECTS THE INTEGRATION OF SPIRITUALLY TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES
ROOMS	Legacy B	Legacy C	Salon 1
2:10 pm-3:10 pm	Breakout Presenter: Danielle Green, PhD A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL FRAMEWORK TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES	Breakout Presenter: Adriana Popescu, PhD AN INTRODUCTION TO ACCESS CONSCIOUSNESS® & TALK TO THE ENTITIES™- EMPOWERING OUR CLIENTS TO KNOW THAT THEY KNOW	Breakout Presenters: Kyle Buller, MS, SEC, & Michelle Anne Hobart, MA, SEC, AMFT AWAKENING HEALERS: INTEGRATIVE ONLINE SPIRITUAL EMERGENCE SUPPORT
ROOMS	Legacy B	Legacy C	Salon 1
10 min	BREAK		
3:20 pm-4:20 pm	Breakout Presenter: Edy Nathan, MA, LCSWR, CST ALTERNATIVE PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC METHODS WITH EXPERIENCERS: THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX	Breakout Presenter: Christy Boyette, CHHC NON-ORDINARY STATES IN LOSS AND CONTINUED EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AFTER TRAUMA	Breakout Presenter: Aisha-Sky Gates A FREED SPIRIT DURING COUNSELING
ROOMS	Legacy B	Legacy C	Salon 1

4:20 pm- 5:20 pm	Breakout Presenter: Shaye Hudson, MA, LPC, C.Ht A TRANSPERSONAL JOURNEY THROUGH MULTIPLE SPIRITUALLY TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS FOR THERAPY	Breakout Presenter: Selene Kumin-Vega, PhD BRINGING TRANSFORMATION HOME	CLOSED
ROOMS	Legacy B	Legacy C	Salon 1
5:30 pm	Closing Ceremony Drum Circle with Edy Nathan & Steve Schmitz		Legacy B
6:45 pm	Meet in Lobby for Group Dinner Please RSVP to Elizabeth Sabet by 3:30		Truva Turkish Restaurant 60 Andrew Young Intl. Blvd NE

PRESENTER BIOS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER ABSTRACTS & LEARNING OBJETIVES



Christy Boyette, CHHC

Christy is a Certified Holistic Health Coach and researcher of non-ordinary states. Her coaching practice focuses on the fields of Holistic Health, Behavioral Sciences, Mind-Body Connections, and Relationship Support. She utilized both Eastern and Western approaches to help others reach personal psychological, emotional, physical, and spiritual life goals.

Non-Ordinary States in Loss & Continued Exceptional Experiences After Trauma

The focus of this presentation will be centered on the impact of non-ordinary states in grief and loss for those who have no prior exposure or awareness of such concepts. In September of 2002, my father disappeared, which was the catalyst for my own first Spiritually Transformative Experience (STE). At that time, while also not understanding what was happening to me, I was led to find him. Through the sharing of my first STE—a traumatic loss—I will explore the psychological and emotional pain associated with this type of exceptional experience, as well as the profound comfort it provided me throughout my healing process and along my spiritual journey.

Objective: At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to~

1. Support those who may have limited knowledge of STEs related to trauma and assist them in integrating their experience in a healthy way.
2. Understand and identify signs of communication with the unseen, as well as after-death communication.
3. Support those who may be experiencing grief/loss of a loved one in opening up to perceiving signs of after-death communication.



Kyle Buller, MS, SEC & Michelle Anne Hobart, MA, SEC, AMFT

Kyle's interest in exploring non-ordinary states of consciousness began at the age of 16 when he suffered a traumatic snowboarding accident. After this near-death experience, Kyle's life changed dramatically.

Kyle subsequently earned his B.A. in Transpersonal Psychology from Burlington College, where he focused on studying the healing potential of non-ordinary states of consciousness by exploring shamanism, Reiki, local medicinal plants and plant medicine, Holotropic Breathwork, and psychedelic psychotherapy. Kyle has been studying breathwork with Lenny and Elizabeth since October 2010. Kyle is currently finishing his M.S. in clinical mental health counseling with an emphasis in somatic psychology. Kyle's clinical background in mental health consists of working with at-risk teenagers in crisis and with individuals experiencing an early-episode of psychosis and providing counseling to undergraduate/graduate students in a university setting. Kyle also facilitates Transpersonal Breathwork workshops.

Michelle is a teacher, writer, energy worker, and Associate Marriage and Family Therapist at Holos Institute. She trained as a Spiritual Emergence Coach with Emma Bragdon and collaborates with the Gnosis Retreat Center project. Her love for the Earth and education was exemplified in her past as a high school Biology and Health teacher working in the Baltimore parochial school system after receiving her BS in Biology from University of Maryland Baltimore County. Deeply longing to immerse herself in the subtle realms, she was drawn to the Bay Area to continue her studies. With her MA in Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness from California Institute of Integral Studies, she continued her own personal journey of healing, and then sharing that path with others through her wellness center and intuitive collective. She has been in states of Spiritual Emergence throughout her life to varying degrees, and entered a state of Spiritual Emergence in 2013.. She completed and released her first book, *Becoming Sacred Space* in 2016. Then, in 2018, Michelle graduated from the Integral Counseling Psychology program at CIIS, and is currently finishing her second book, about Spiritual Emergence.

Awakening Healers: Integrative Online Spiritual Emergence Support

In a time of spiritual crisis, it may be difficult to find appropriate supports or resources. Western psychology and psychiatry typically pathologize these experiences or states of consciousness and some people are afraid to seek traditional treatments. This is why we have put together an online course that incorporates a peer-support model to help guide those that have gone through or currently going through a manageable crisis. Based upon our online course Awakening Healers, which includes psychoeducation, meditations, energy medicine, and Spiritual Emergence Support circles, we have developed a template for conceptualizing, honoring, and holding sacred space for the transformative power of these non-ordinary or extreme states of consciousness. We also include modules on neurodiversity, cognitive liberty, Stan Grof's legacy, and research, breathwork, energy anatomy, sound healing, grounding meditation, self-care, and resourcing. We have found that this model makes the content available to others all over the world, who may not be in a location where SE space-holding or education is available, as well as our wide-ranging and comprehensive toolkit for Spiritual Emergence Support and Integration. Kyle & Michelle will share their stories, background, and experience with developing and co-facilitating this flagship program.



Alexander Doman, MD

Alexander Doman, MD is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon for more than 30 years practicing in the Atlanta area.

College: Tufts University BS Magna cum Laude 1977
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine 1978-1982
Mayo Graduate School of Medicine 1982-1983 Rochester MN Internal Medicine
Henry Ford Hospital 1983-1988 Detroit MI Residency Orthopedic Surgery

My life changed abruptly on July 19, 2012 when I had an STE of the most profound mystical nature that forever and completely transformed my life.

Presentations: Keynote Speaker at Academy of Spiritual and Consciousness Studies, Inc Annual Conference in Raleigh NC June 2017, Symposium Speaker on STE with Dr. Yvonne Kason at IANDS Annual Conference Seattle WA September 2018.

What does Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism say of the soul and the afterlife?

This presenter will discuss the intersection of Kabbalah and the transformation of the inner self and the levels of the soul that is at the heart of Jewish Mysticism. He will speak of what mysticism from the Jewish perspective says of the eternal nature of the soul and our quest for the ultimate union.



Caroline Fernandes, MS, CCHT, CHWLC

Caroline Fernandes is a pre-licensed integrative psychotherapist, international research doctoral student at Mercer University, certified clinical hypnotherapist and a Reiki master. She is a psychic medium trained in trauma and Comprehensive Energy Psychotherapy. Caroline facilitates national/international workshops on Trauma Narrative Treatment, Eastern healing modalities, and psychic development in counseling. Caroline works with children and adults with spiritual and parapsychology intelligence.

Soul Retrieval: From Victim to Healer an Integration of Spiritual Experiences and Transpersonal Trust.

Presenter will share personal narratives and case studies of how normalizing psychic intelligence, spiritual experiences, and development of transpersonal trust helps heal childhood sexual trauma. Eastern healing modalities such as chakra balancing, reiki, shamanism, and spirits will be discussed including western traditional psychotherapy such as dream analyzing, self-acceptance, and processing



Michael Garbe, LCSW, DSW(c)

Michael Garbe is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who specializes in working with individuals who would like to have spirituality integrated into their therapy. Having experienced, processed, and integrated, a spiritual crisis of his own, Michael has become an expert in assisting others through their spiritual challenges. Along with his clinical work, due to having had difficulty finding professional assistance during his spiritual crisis, Michael has dedicated himself to increasing spiritual competence within the helping professions. He is currently engaged in doctoral research at Rutgers University – DSW Program. He has authored a chapter in a social work textbook, which will be published in 2020, on the topic of spiritual emergency. His latest research has developed into a framework on how to assess and provide treatment for individuals who have experienced an STE.

Social Work’s Role and Spiritually Transformative Experiences

A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center showed that approximately 50% of Americans say that they have had a religious or mystical experience, defined as a moment of religious or spiritual awakening (Pew Research Center, 2009). Despite the evidence that reveals a large percentage of individuals have reported a spiritual experience, Canda (2002) states that many social workers lack the competence to deal with spiritual issues in treatment. The NASW Code of Ethics requires services that address spirituality to be culturally competent (NASW, 2018, Ethical Responsibilities to Clients), and that social workers should examine and keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to social work (NASW, 2018, Ethical Responsibilities as Professionals).

This presentation will examine the findings of a qualitative study of licensed social workers who have worked with individuals who have experienced an STE. At the end of this presentation participants will have learned:

1. Assessment strategies to utilize when working with individuals who have experienced a STE
2. Treatment strategies to utilize when working with individuals who have experienced a STE



Aisha-Sky Gates

Aisha-Sky Gates is a relationship coach and alternative lifestyle counselor. Her private practice is in Massachusetts. The concept “spiritual” suits Aisha-Sky as she integrates spiritual principles in both her personal life and professional philosophy. Please write to her at skygatescounseling@gmail.com. Read her blog posts at <http://gatescounseling.com>. Tele. No. 413-475-3694.

A Freed Spirit During Counseling

My counseling session had an unexpected visitor. My client was grieving after the death of her mother two years before. The client had come to me with complaints about her long-term intimate relationship. I am a relationship coach and alternative lifestyle counselor so she was hoping that I would meet with her and her mate and, of course, that I would “fix him.” From the very first session with her though, I realized that relationship dissatisfactions were not the issue. We switched into focusing on family relations and on what she wanted for herself for the future. In the session that became very special to me and to my client I became aware of the client’s mother having entered the room. She came in the shape of a large cloud, hovering right in front of me. While this experience was amazing for me the hard part was deciding on what to tell the client. There was a question of how to maintain professional integrity and at the same time impart enough valid information to the client to help her with her grief and further development.

Learning Objectives for My Audience:

1. *You can expect* to learn how to **explore** the parallel between spiritual openness and a deepened intuition as a clinician.
2. *You can expect* to learn to **analyze** or consider anew the language that we use with our clients relative to your spirituality and theirs.
3. *You can expect* to learn to **interpret** how you, the clinician, are affected by the client’s worldview and belief system.



Danielle Green, PhD

Danielle Green, Ph.D. holds a Masters and Doctorate in Psychology as well as a Masters of Divinity. In addition to being trained in Jungian Psychology (PhD.), Dr. Green’s expertise includes training in the fields of Family Therapy, Hypnosis, Neurofeedback, Trauma, Attachment Disorders, Mood Disorders, Psychodrama, Imago Therapy for Couples and the Enneagram. Dr. Green is also an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and a Spiritual Director. Dr. Green’s research interests include: transgenerational family therapy, altered states of consciousness, dream analysis, and the interfacing of psychoanalysis and mysticism as a transformative experience. Prior to entering private practice, Dr. Green was the founding Director of Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (Sarasota, Fl.), psychotherapist at New College (Sarasota, Fl), and psychotherapist for the Stanford Research Institute. Dr. Green worked in private practice in Berkeley,

California; London, England and Sarasota, Florida. She continues to lecture and facilitate groups and retreats throughout the United States, Europe and India.

A Psychological and Spiritual Framework to Understand the Meaning of Mystical Experiences

In this presentation, we will explore the nature of the mystical experience from a psychological, neuropsychological, cultural and spiritual perspective. The work of Carl Jung who claimed “Human beings do not stand in one world only but between two worlds and must distinguish themselves from their functions in both worlds. You have to stand between the gods and men...” will provide the psychological interpretive base to understand the individual’s mystical experience. From this perspective, we will examine the healing function of the mystical call, its aftermath on the psyche, life development, as well as the realm of mysticism and madness.



Tobin Hart, PhD

Tobin is a father, university professor, author, psychologist, and consultant. He is co-founder and chair of the Board of Directors of ChildSpirit Institute, a nonprofit educational and research hub dedicated to understanding and nurturing the spiritual world of children. He currently serves as Professor of psychology at the State University of West Georgia. His teaching and research centers on the activity of knowing and examines consciousness, spirituality, psychotherapy, and education. He has served as a director of a school for gifted adolescents, a director of counseling, an academic dean, clinical supervisor, a therapist for families, adults, and children, and as a consultant for a variety of organizations. His two latest books are “The Secret Spiritual World of Children” and “From Information to Transformation: Education for the Evolution of Consciousness.”

Tobin says: “Two dimensions of spiritual knowing stand out to me from my childhood. Beginning about five years old I remember wondering what this life was all about, wondering who I really was, and asking why these adults around me seemed to be missing what seemed to be important and behaving in ways that seemed so often harmful. Unfortunately, I learned that such questions were not often taken seriously by the adults I encountered so I kept them submerged until many years later. In addition to these radical questions, I also remember being both overjoyed and sometimes overwhelmed by moments in which I was apparently feeling into others-what I have come to call Deep Empathy. As a child I would sometimes experience directly how interconnected we really are to one another and to the universe. For the past twenty-five years I have tried to understand and integrate these experiences toward a practical spirituality, and toward an education and psychology of consciousness. The grace of my own children and listening to the of the soulful stories of hundreds of others has helped me to remember the richness of the human spirit.”

Beyond Integration

STE’s serve as a disruptor to our normal waking life, one that can activate and necessitate a recalibration of our inner and outer worlds. How does what we know about psychospiritual development inform the work of integrating spiritual experience? What does research on spiritual exemplars tell us about bringing integration down to earth for sustained growth? Particular challenges arise as a result of an opening; these are the trailheads for integration. As we begin to find our way, understanding the fluctuating threshold of consciousness that opens to the event in the first place can provide a gateway to that secret correspondence with our heart. This centers not so much on what we know, but especially on how we know—balancing reason with resonance. Moving still further in the search for more embodied awakening, the early challenges give way to new questions, possibilities and paradoxes. Unpacking these phases and processes of growth helps to ground our role as psychospiritual ally and helper, whether in the initial aftermath of a STE or as a more general domain of practice facilitating deepening presence and possibility.



Janice Miner Holden, EdD

Janice Miner Holden grew up in the northwest Chicago suburbs. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology with honors from the University of Illinois, she taught high school psychology for 11 years earning her master's and doctoral degrees in counselor education at Northern Illinois University. Since completing her EdD in 1988, she served 31 years as a member of the University of North Texas (UNT) Counseling Program faculty—11 of those years as chair of the Department of Counseling & Higher Education. Beginning with her doctoral dissertation, Dr. Holden's primary research focus has been counseling implications of near-death experiences, after-death communication, and other transpersonal experiences—those that transcend the usual personal limits of space, time, and identity. In this research area she has over 50 refereed journal publications and over 100 national and international presentations.

She served as lead editor of the 2009 *Handbook of Near-Death Experiences: Thirty Years of Investigation*, and she co-edited the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling's (ASERVIC's) 2017 *Connecting Soul, Spirit, Mind, and Body: A Collection of Spiritual and Religious Perspectives and Practices in Counseling*. Among her professional service was three years as president of the International Association for Near-Death Studies, and since 2008 she has served as editor-in-chief of that association's scholarly *Journal of Near-Death Studies*. She is a Texas Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor, a National Certified Counselor, and an American Center for the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences (ACISTE [pronounced "assist"]) Certified Mental Health Professional. For her career-long research on and advocacy for people who have had transpersonal experiences, Jan was awarded ASERVIC's 2013 Research Award and the American Counseling Association's 2015 Gilbert and Kathleen Wrenn Award for a Humanitarian and Caring Person. In her last year prior to retirement as a UNT professor of Counseling, for her outstanding and sustained contributions to scholarly-creative activity, teaching, and service, Jan received the UNT Foundation's 2019 Eminent Faculty Award, one of the highest faculty achievements whose recipient serves as an inspiration for the entire UNT community.

Effects of Induced After-Death Communication on Grief: A Randomized, Controlled Intervention Study

This presentation will highlight a study done regarding Induced After-Death Communication (IADC), an approach which involves a therapist helping a client process the core sadness of the grief they are experiencing as well as describe spontaneous transpersonal phenomena that IADC therapists should be prepared to experience and provide time for question and answer with the audience. At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the discovery and development of IADC, along with preliminary research on it,
2. Describe the method and results of a randomized, controlled study comparing the effects of IADC vs. traditional talk therapy on grief symptoms,
3. Describe possible spontaneous experiences in addition to IADC for which IADC practitioners should be prepared.



Shaye Hudson, MA, LPC, C.Ht

Shaye is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Atlanta, GA who has a graduate education and focus in Transpersonal Psychology from the University of West Georgia. He has had multiple Spiritually Transformative Experiences (STEs) and specializes in providing individual and group counseling for clients with mystical, unitive, and transpersonal experiences. Shaye's mission is to help clients integrate, heal and transform through their STEs. He is also a Reviewer for the Journal of Exceptional Experiences and Psychology.

A Transpersonal Journey Through Multiple Spiritually Transformative Experiences and Insights for Therapy

The presentation will cover my personal journey through out of body experiences, after death communication, and precognition and visitation dreams. This is a story of grief, loss of family and loved ones, direct face to face spiritual encounters with them, and supporting a family member who had multiple visitation experiences. The presentation will also include a basic overview of these types of transpersonal experiences for Therapists not familiar with these experiences. I will end with insights that can be applied in therapy.



Richard Knowles, PhD

Richard Knowles, PhD is the founder and executive director of [Delos Psyche Research Group](#), which is dedicated to the scientific exploration of psychedelics. He is also a licensed psychologist working as a psychotherapist in the San Francisco Bay Area. He's taught classes on psychology and consciousness studies at the doctoral level, and as a researcher, his topics of inquiry include consciousness studies, altered states of consciousness, psychedelic studies, and exceptional human experience. He's completed clinical post-doctoral work at the Community Center for Health and Wellness and is involved in a research post-doc at the Transformative Tech Lab currently. He additionally works for the Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies as a lead adherence rater for their MDMA-assisted psychotherapy research treating PTSD. His interests in psychedelics are related to transcendent experiences, long-term psychospiritual benefits and additionally, the microdosing of psychedelics for more consistent benefits.

The Power and Glory of God: A Comparative Review of the Phenomenology of N,N-DMT versus 5-MeO-N, N-DMT

While psychedelics are often capable of generating spiritual experiences in the form of ego-dissolution, contact with archetypal consciousness, and unitive experiences, N, N- dimethyltryptamine or N, N-DMT is often considered to be one of the most potent psychedelics in terms of its intense experiences, detailed, otherworldly imagery and frequent encounters with seemingly sentient, intelligent entities. Its close molecular cousin, 5-methoxy-N, N-dimethyltryptamine or 5-MeO-N, N-DMT, the primary active alkaloid in the increasingly popular "toad medicine" produced by protective glands on the *bufo alvarius* toad, produces equally powerful experiences while tending to maximize the chances of experiencing unitive consciousness. This will be a comparative review of the phenomenology of N, N-DMT versus 5-MeO-N, N-DMT, with an emphasis on the types of spiritual experiences each can produce. Safety precautions as well as ways to integrate these experiences will also be discussed.



Selene Kumin-Vega, PhD

Selene Kumin Vega, Ph.D. is a licensed psychotherapist (CA MFC #32604), workshop leader, and faculty at Saybrook University. Her work with movement and other experiential modalities evolved over 50 years of facilitating self-exploration, connection, and transformation. Her teaching includes the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (now Sofia University), Bastyr, JFK University, and Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health. She has published chapters on using psychospiritual approaches to treat anxiety and using movement practices in psychotherapy. She was editor of the *Spiritual Emergence Network Newsletter*, and co-authored *The Sevenfold Journey* (Crossing Press, 1993), now in six languages.

Bringing Transformation Home

Participants in psychospiritual workshops often attend seeking a connection with something beyond their day-to-day life. Those who find that connection may have difficulty maintaining it when they return home. This presentation examines what assists workshop participants in sustaining transformations and maintaining a new worldview, self-image, and value system as they return to their daily life. In this presentation, we will examine the challenges involved in that integration and what can support those struggling with that process to bring their transformative experiences into their daily lives.

Learning Objective: Identify specific challenges involved in integrating transformative workshop experience, and tools for supporting that integration.



Edy Nathan, MA, LCSWR, CST

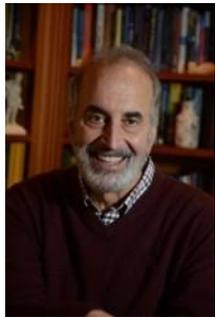
Edy Nathan MA, LCSWR is an author, keynote speaker, workshop leader. She combines her works as a therapist with her work within the spiritual realm. As a licensed therapist, AASECT certified sex therapist, hypnotherapist, regressionist and certified EMDR practitioner with more than 20 years of experience. She has degrees from New York University and Fordham University, with post-graduate training at the Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy. She practices in New York City. She was the therapist on A&E tv's *Psychic Kids: Children of the Paranormal*. She specializes in grief, loss and trauma throughout the life cycle and spiritual awakenings.

Mask Making, Drumming and Alternative Psychotherapeutic Methods with Spiritual Experiencers: Thinking outside of the box

When someone is a spiritual experiencer, their worlds are both expansive and isolating. Hiding what you see, what you know and what you feel causes a grief reaction that includes depression, anxiety and anger. With few therapists able to identify a spiritual crisis without needing to characterize the person as a patient, there are ways to help further identify this kind of crisis. It may not be through verbal expression, or one's ability to follow up on tasks or hold a job. What we can do is give the client (no longer identified as the patient, aka one who is sick) a chance to communicate through more primal means. It is through these primal means—such as mask making, drumming and rattle sounds—a wealth of knowledge about the client's internal experience can be illuminated.

When you leave this workshop, you will be able to:

1. Identify 3 specific ways to accelerate communication
2. Be willing to experiment with yourself before working with a client
3. Understand the 11 phases of grief model



Frank Pasciuti, PhD

Frank Pasciuti, PhD is a licensed clinical psychologist and certified hypnotherapist in private practice in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is founder and president of Associated Clinicians of Virginia, which provides psychotherapy and organizational development services to individuals and businesses. Dr. Pasciuti is chairman of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at The Monroe Institute, in Faber, Virginia, and he collaborates on research related to NDEs, psychic phenomena, and the survival of consciousness at the Division of Perceptual Studies (DOPS), a research unit of the department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He is author of *Chrysalis Crisis, How Life's Ordeals Can Lead to Personal and Spiritual Transformation*.

What's to be learned from having a spiritually transformative experience?

In this presentation, Dr. Pasciuti will employ a model of evolving consciousness and identify ten key areas where it manifests in human functioning. He will examine how various STE's can be employed to affect therapeutic growth in those ten key areas, and how their increased mastery and combined synergy of contribute to an individual's overall psychological and spiritual awakening. In order to do this, he will draw from the work of Dr. Stanislav Grof to identify the kinds of exceptional experiences that often lead to spiritual emergencies and use cases from his practice to show how their understanding and integration promoted personal growth and transformation.

At the end of this presentation, you will be able to:

1. Identify ten key areas of growth that are primarily addressed in psychotherapy, and
2. How they can be affected and advanced as a result of integrating an STE
3. Learn about a model of evolving consciousness that broadly encompasses the foundational, personal, and transpersonal dimensions of being.



Marieta Pehlivanova, PhD

Marieta Pehlivanova, PhD is a junior researcher at the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia. Dr. Pehlivanova's work at the Division focuses on near-death experiences, children reporting past-life memories, as well as other unusual experiences. Marieta holds a PhD in Experimental Psychology and a Bachelor's degree in Statistics. Prior to her academic work, she pursued a career as a statistician in medical research.

Support Needs and Outcomes for Near-Death Experiencers

The vast majority of research work on near-death experiences (NDEs) to date has focused on understanding NDEs' phenomenology, classifications, aftereffects, circumstances of occurrence, and implications for the mind-brain relationship. Nevertheless, there is still a dearth of research into how best to help experiencers cope with and integrate the experience in its immediate aftermath.

NDEs can be hugely life-transforming and powerful experiences. NDEs are often accompanied by a robust pattern of aftereffects, including deep and long-lasting changes in the experiencer's values, spirituality, relationships, and outlook on life. However, NDEs can also trigger emotional and interpersonal difficulties, and the long-term integration of these experiences and their aftereffects can take years. Experiencers often find it difficult to talk about their NDE with medical professionals and even with loved ones, for fear of rejection, ridicule, or a label of mental illness. Difficulties may also arise from the inability of friends and family to accept or adapt to experiencers' changing values and interests. At the same time, specialized professional help is limited by the scarcity of counselors, therapists or health professionals familiar with NDEs and specific issues engendered by the experience.

We are conducting an exploratory study to investigate the types of professional help, therapy, and support groups near-death experiencers have sought out to process their experience, and whether those have been helpful. Using online surveys, we are gathering data from near-death experiencers themselves, as well as counselors and mental health professionals who have worked with them. To our knowledge, this is the first quantitative study to explore the types and outcomes of therapies and support avenues for near-death experiencers. Data obtained from this

study could help us design data-driven recommendations for supporting individuals who have had an NDE and are experiencing difficulties resulting from it.

Dr. Marieta Pehlivanova is the Principal Investigator for this study and will present preliminary findings. Dr. Bruce Greyson is a co-investigator.



William Peters, M.Ed., MFT & Monica Williams, MD

William Peters, M.A., M.Ed., is the founder of the Shared Crossing Project whose mission is to raise awareness and educate people about the profound and healing experiences that are possible for the dying and their loved ones. As the director of the Shared Crossing Research Initiative, William and his team collect and study extraordinary end-of-life experiences (shared crossings). He has developed methods to facilitate these shared crossings and to assist experiencers in meaningfully integrating their experiences. William conducts workshops and presents nationally on his research. He is a licensed psychotherapist at the Family Therapy Institute in Santa Barbara where he specializes in end-of-life counseling as a means toward psycho-spiritual evolution. William has worked as a Zen Hospice

volunteer and his work is informed by his two near death experiences (SDEs) and a variety of shared death experiences as hospice worker.

Dr. Monica Williams, board-certified Emergency Physician and author of "It's Ok to Die" has lectured and written extensively on transforming death and dying in Modern America. Considered an expert on medical decision-making at the end of life, she has been featured in multiple media sources including the Emmy Award winning TV show, "The Doctors" and the Washington Post. Dr. Williams' welcomes dialogue regarding exceptional states of consciousness which may occur for the dying, their loved ones and the healthcare providers who attend the dying. These exceptional experiences, if affirmed and integrated, may serve to trigger profound healing and growth for individuals and inspire more holistic support by institutions that serve the dying.

The Shared Crossing Spectrum: Introducing a Typology of Spiritually Transformative Experiences (STE) at the End of Life.

The Shared Crossing Spectrum is the product of a seven-year study conducted by the Shared Crossing Research Initiative. This plenary presentation will introduce the Spectrum of STEs at end of life which encompasses pre-death premonitions and pre- and post-death dreams, visions, and synchronicities, as well as shared death experiences. The Spectrum is intended to provide a map to assist laypeople, healthcare professionals, and spiritual counselors working at end of life.

Objectives

By the end of this presentation, audiences will be able to:

1. Comprehend various STE end-of-life phenomena that comprise the Shared Crossing Spectrum

2. Apply knowledge of the Shared Crossing Spectrum in serving the needs of those at end of life;
3. Appreciate the importance of a vocabulary with which to better interact with experiencers and affirm their experiences; and
4. Encourage continued studies into end-of-life phenomena

Outline Topics

offer an overview of specific kinds and categories of end-of-life phenomena that have emerged from the research and that we have located on the Shared Crossing Spectrum

discuss how absence of understanding of these end-of-life phenomena can create scenarios of disservice (i.e., inappropriate medical interventions in the absence of this knowledge), as well as contribute to the discounting, dismissing, or disparaging of such phenomena

provide specific case studies in which people speak to the value of having a common language to discuss their experiences, and in sharing their experiences with others

call for further research and solicit more research participants



Adriana Popescu, PhD

Dr. Adriana Popescu is a licensed clinical psychologist, addiction specialist, and empowerment coach with over 25 years of experience in the mental health field. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, a program that takes a holistic approach to the training of psychotherapists, teaching them how to help clients self-actualize and reach their highest human potential. Adriana is also a certified hypnotherapist, Access Consciousness® Facilitator, and Neuro Emotional Technique (NET) Practitioner, having discovered that Energy Psychology provides incredibly powerful tools to identify and eliminate the deep-rooted causes of suffering and distress.

An Introduction to Access Consciousness® & Talk to the Entities™ – Empowering Our Clients to Know That They Know

Access Consciousness® is a unique and dynamic set of tools, processes, and energy work which invites people to have more awareness and to live to their greatest potential. Talk to the Entities™ is a specialty topic of Access, which focuses on engagement with the spirit world. What if what we are calling pathologies are awarenesses, abilities, and talents? What if we could empower our clients to know that they know, that they are aware, and that they have capacities this reality doesn't always recognize or value?

What else is truly possible to open the door to a life of infinite possibilities, where all of life can come to us with easy, joy and glory? Participants in this seminar will walk away with powerful and pragmatic tools to assist themselves and their clients in handling their abilities and awareness of the spirit world. We will discuss the three basic activities we can do with entities: clearing, communicating, and receiving. Popescu will also answer questions and present ways our clients can free themselves from stigma and judgment to embrace a different possibility.



Devi Prem

Devi Prem's background spans a BA in Business and in Psychology, an MA in Transpersonal Psychology, and a current enrollment in a Ph.D. program in Psychology in the dissertation phase, added by certifications in Coaching, Meditation, Movement, and Creativity. Her upcoming dissertation will be on the effects of gratitude on the integration of self-transcendent experiences. The core of her spiritual training was a residential academic program in Meditation and Interfaith, including Sanskrit, in India. She has been teaching, coaching, and mentoring seekers on the spiritual path towards awakening and integration across cultures and religions internationally since 2002. She is the founder of CFIT Center for Integrating Transcendence with a focus on supporting individuals to manifest their professional life mission in order to make a difference in this world. She is a coach of coaches, enhancing

leadership skills and personal alignment. She is a member of the Association of Transpersonal Psychology (ATP) and the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA) as well as Strozzi Institute of Embodied Leadership. She recently presented at the SANDS Nondual and the IEATA conference. Devi currently resides in Ashland, OR while enjoying international travels.

How Gratitude Affects the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences

This presentation explores how gratitude affects the integration of spiritually transformative experiences (STEs). There will be an emphasis on transcendent experiences like ultimate reality, the void, and unity consciousness, experiences beyond ordinary day-to-day existence.

Gratitude has been researched extensively in the field of positive psychology, little though in connection to STEs. The author will present her case study and dissertation analysis among other insights in the research of self-transcendence. To understand the significance of integrating STEs and which role gratitude might play, the topics of spiritual emergence and spiritual bypass will be explored. Some gratitude practices will be offered that can easily be taken into sessions with clients and for personal use at home.



Steve Schmitz, PhD

Steven Schmitz, Ph. D. (Transpersonal Psychology), has a private practice in shamanic counseling, shamanic healing, and spiritual guidance. Dr. Schmitz is an international teacher, lecturer, and seminar leader on topics of transpersonal psychology, shamanism, and healing. He was initiated into shamanic practice in 1974. Dr. Schmitz leads monthly Shamanic Journey Circles and offers shamanic ceremonies. He is Co-President of the Association of Transpersonal Psychology (TI/ATP).

Shamanic Morning Prayer Circle

This Shamanic Morning Prayer Circle is a great opportunity to start your morning in a sacred way sharing gratitude, connecting with spirit, drumming, dancing, and sharing ritual and prayer in community. Bring a drum or rattle, if you have one. This activity before breakfast will be facilitated by Dr. Steven Schmitz and is open to all conference attendees.

Shamanic Counseling: An Earth-Based Spiritual Practice for Co-Creating Spiritually Transformative Experiences

Shamanic Counseling is an approach to working with clients that honors and integrates the ancient knowledge and practices of traditional shamanism with the knowledge and practices of contemporary transpersonal psychology. This approach has been shown to provide a powerful resource for increased self-empowerment, reduced anxiety, sacred connection with spirit, and healing. Dr. Schmitz will provide a description of shamanic counseling, explore the therapeutic benefits, discuss research, and present case studies from his counseling practice. Many of the presenters at this conference will be speaking about how to work with clients to understand, normalize, accept, and integrate their spiritually transformative experiences into everyday life. This is a much needed and very beneficial service that will be helpful for many people who have experienced spontaneous spiritually transformative experiences. In this presentation Dr. Schmitz will provide attendees with knowledge of how to facilitate the co-creation, with spirit allies, of spiritually transformative experiences for those clients who desire that ability.

After this presentation participants will have learned:

1. The basic tenets of the shamanic paradigm
2. The main aspects of shamanic counseling as a spiritual practice that facilitates the co-creation of spiritually transformative experiences
3. Research results and case studies that illustrate the therapeutic benefits of shamanic counseling
4. The benefits of knowing how to work with spirit helpers for both practitioners and clients
5. How practitioners and clients can protect themselves while doing shamanic practice



Christine Simmonds-Moore, PhD

Christine Simmonds-Moore is a UK native who has a PhD from the University of Northampton on “Schizotypy as an anomaly-prone personality.” She is currently working as an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of West Georgia. She has research interests in the psychology of exceptional experiences (including transpersonal and subjective paranormal experiences), paranormal beliefs and disbeliefs, personality and mental health correlates of exceptional experiences, synesthesia, altered states of consciousness, mind body relationships and healing and placebo effects. She is the recipient of several Bial grants to study exceptional experiences and is currently completing a research study on ghost experiences. She is the co-author of a textbook on Anomalistic psychology and edited a collection of chapters about Exceptional Experiences and Health.

The Transformational Potential of Entity Encounter Experiences

Apparitions refer to the subjective perception of a figure or being, when *no real figure is physically present* and when normal means of communication are ruled out (after Irwin & Watt, 2007). Sense of presence experiences occur when there is a felt or perceived sense that a person or entity is present, in the absence of a definitive visual (or other sensory) apparition. Subjective encounters with entities have been reported across cultures and appear throughout history. Many of these experiences are highly personal and include “after death communications” with loved ones that are positive, meaningful and sometimes transformative (e.g., Hastings, 2012). In this presentation, the author will discuss the results of a mixed methods study that has investigated subjective experiences with entities. The presentation will particularly focus on people’s experiences with deceased loved ones. This will include the results of a qualitative analysis of experiences described in a survey and experiences that were reported in the context of a *psychomanteum* procedure.



Yolaine M. Stout, B.A. CFRM, ACLSC

Yolaine Stout is the founding, first president and current board member of ACISTE. She is an Honors Graduate from the School of Education at UC Berkeley and a public school teacher in Feldkirch, Austria and in San Diego for 22 years. In 1982, she had a suicidal near-death experience which has continued to shape her life ever since. Upon retiring in 2001, Mrs. Stout has devoted her time to researching, writing, speaking and coaching on issues related to spiritually transformative experiences, as well as developing strategic plans for non-profit organizations. She earned a Certificate in Fundraising Management from the Indiana School of Philanthropy. As a grant writer and strategic planner, she successfully led a multi- million effort to purchase land for an open space preserve in her community. She has a keen interest in the impact of metaphors in STEs, innovation and problem-solving on a personal and organizational level.

The Scale and Scope of Therapeutic Issues in STEs: A Summary of the Research

ACISTE was formed to better understand and work to support the integrative needs of people who have had a profoundly life-altering, spiritual experience. This talk is a summary of ACISTE definitions and the research ACISTE has gathered, enabled or conducted in our efforts to shed more light as it relates to support for this largely unknown, and therefore, underserved population. The research includes studies on prevalence, findings related to diagnoses, types of changes following an STE, integration patterns, challenges, needs assessments, and case studies. It concludes with an appeal for further research in specific areas, as well as offers resources for further study.

Learning Objectives:

1. Be able to cite statistics on the prevalence of STEs in the US.
2. Be able to provide key findings on distinctions between STEs and pathology.
3. Be able to identify key emotional and psychological needs of STEs.
4. Be able to describe integration patterns and goals.

EXPERIENCERS AND ABSTRACT

The Challenges and Gifts of Awakening: Holding the Vision for Successful Integration

The mission of ACISTE is to meet the integration needs of spiritual experiencers through research, education, and support. As an organization, all of our programs are driven by listening to experiencers first. As such, we open this conference with an opportunity to listen to and learn from the diverse experiences of three unique people, Mary Mance Hart, John Stringer, & Michael Wadsworth. This panel will explore the varieties of experiences had, the challenges faced, and the gifts secured as a result of successful integration.

At the end of this presentation participants will be able to:

1. identify three unique presentations of spiritual emergence
2. Discern two strategies to aid in clinical support of the integration process.
3. Consider the latent potentials that may be unlocked through the awakening process in order to approach our clients with progressive frameworks over pathological ones.



Moderator: Katrina Michelle, PhD, LCSW, ACMHP

Katrina Michelle, PhD, LCSW, ACMHP, is a holistic psychotherapist & and an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Social Services & The Institute for the Development of Human Arts. Informed by her doctoral research on "spiritual emergence" and her own transcendent experiences, she supports people in exploring, embracing, and integrating the multifaceted human experience by facilitating personal sessions, groups, and community events through her NYC-based practice, The Curious Spirit.

Katrina co-founded Emergent Entertainment, LLC in 2018. This production company on a mission to demystify awakening experiences through storytelling and art is currently producing their first documentary film, *When Lightning Strikes: The Unsexy Side of Awakening*. Fiscally sponsored by Conscious Good, and supported by the filmmakers who created *AWAKE: The Life of Yogananda*, *What the Bleep Do We Know*, & *Heal*, Katrina is enthusiastic to use this medium to build bridges to mainstream audiences in order to foster a grounded awareness of spiritual emergence and facilitate the cultural shifts that will allow for greater openness, understanding, and integration of the spiritual experiences that lead us toward developing our highest human potentials.



Experiencer: Mary Mance Hart

Following a NDE drowning several decades ago, Mary's experience of reality shifted to perceiving inter-dimensionally. The NDE catalyzed access to spiritual guidance, mapped varieties of out-of-body experiences, and opened awareness of physical, emotional, energetic and spiritual entities that share our universe. In 2000, Mary co-founded and has served as Executive Director of ChildSpirit Institute, a nonprofit with a mission of understanding and nurturing the inner lives of children and adults. ChildSpirit provided a network and forum (international conferences, trainings, camps) to share information, practices, and experiences that were not yet mainstream. Mary has served as a University instructor, administrator in a variety of roles and a Director of a community nonprofit helping families to move out of poverty. She continues to consult with parents and children regarding "spiritual experiences." Having walked over 1500 miles on Caminos to date, she considers this as one of her spiritual practices.



Experiencer: Mike Wadsworth

Mike Wadsworth is a singer-songwriter and guitarist based in Nashville, Tennessee. His recordings and performances are intended to be a deeply personal journey, challenging the growth of the listener's humanity and spiritual development. All of the music you hear today is the product of a radical shift in thought and understanding that followed a battle with depression. It's Mike's mission to use songwriting and performance as a means of communicating this emotional experience and discussing the confusing happenings of life that too many people keep to themselves.



Experiencer: John Stringer

John Stringer is a life teacher, speaker, Billboard charting singer-songwriter, healer, and author with a passion for music, community, expansion and limitless love and light. He currently serves as Founder of PolyPlat Records; Co-Founder of MasterMomentMakers.com (an intuitive training membership site); Partner at Healing Arts Management; and a True Collaboration leader at www.bandingpeopletogether.com (clients include leaders at Netflix, Focus Brands, Microsoft, NASA, ESPN, SunTrust and many more). John has written and recorded several albums (including a co-written top 10 best selling Billboard chart hit single with his former rock band, State of Man) and has performed throughout the world (including tours for U.S. Armed Forces). His music has been featured on major network television and he has also appeared in national print ads (Rolling Stone, VIBE, SPIN, Vanity Fair, etc.).



Experiencer: Matt Kahn

Matt Kahn is the author of the best-selling books *Whatever Arises*, *Love That* and *Everything Is Here To Help You*. He is a spiritual teacher, and highly attuned empathic healer who has become a YouTube sensation with his healing and often humorous videos. His over 14 million YouTube channel viewers are finding the support they seek to feel more loved, awakened, and opened to the greatest possibilities in life through the invitation to join the "Love Revolution That Begins with You."

Matt's spontaneous awakening arose out of an out-of-body experience at the age of eight, and through his direct experiences with Ascended Masters and Archangels throughout his life. Using his intuitive abilities of seeing, hearing, feeling, and direct knowing, Matt feels the emotions of others and is able to pinpoint what blocks any heart from opening. As a result, he brings forth revolutionary teachings through both the written and spoken word that assist energetically sensitive beings in healing the body, awakening the soul, and transforming reality through the power of love.

ACISTE Board of Directors



Founder/Treasurer: Yolaine M. Stout, BA, CFRM

Yolaine Stout is the founding, first president and current board member of ACISTE. She is an Honors Graduate from the School of Education at UC Berkeley and a public-school teacher in Feldkirch, Austria and in San Diego for 22 years. In 1982, she had a suicidal near-death experience which has continued to shape her life ever since. Upon retiring in 2001, Mrs. Stout has devoted her time to researching, writing, speaking and coaching on issues related to spiritually transformative experiences, as well as developing strategic plans for non-profit organizations. She earned a Certificate in Fundraising Management from the Indiana School of Philanthropy. As a grant writer and strategic planner, she successfully led a multi-million effort to purchase land for an open space preserve in her community. She has a keen interest in the impact of metaphors in STEs, innovation and problem-solving on a personal and organizational level.



President: Elizabeth Sabet, PCC, CBC, ACSLC

Elizabeth Sabet, PCC, ACSLC, CBC works as a Certified Professional Life and Spiritual Integration Coach, is the Founder and CEO of The Institute of Transformational and Transpersonal Coaching, and the Co-Founder and Founding Executive Director of HOPE, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating local community dialogue about the inclusion of holistic practices and principles, providing community activities, support, and education for individuals with spiritual emergence experiences and for anyone who is ready to explore life beyond the boundaries of their enculturated life experiences. Her spiritual and mystical experiences since childhood have informed her work and have inspired her to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the principles of holism in the fields of integrated health, parenting, community relations, team building, and spiritual development. Her background is in administrative law dispute resolution, training, and the management of early childhood programs.



Executive Director: Katrina Michelle, PhD, LCSW, ACMHP

Katrina Michelle, PhD, LCSW is a holistic psychotherapist & and an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Social Services & The Institute for the Development of Human Arts. Informed by her doctoral research on "spiritual emergence" and her own transcendent experiences, she supports people in exploring, embracing, and integrating the multifaceted human experience by facilitating personal sessions, groups, and community events through her NYC-based practice, The Curious Spirit.

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will allow for greater openness, understanding, and integration of the spiritual experiences that lead us toward developing our highest human potentials.



Laura Suzanna Gordon, PhD

Dr. Gordon's research is the first near-death-studies or death-and-dying studies project to use the ethnographic method, and a health-education and culture-studies framework, to situate near-death experience (NDE) survivors as the insider-experts on the first-hand experience of dying. Her research was supported by research grants from the University of Maryland and the International Association of Near-Death Studies; and it was recognized with an international graduate research award for cross-cultural scholarship in death and dying by the Association for Death Education and Counseling. She is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the American Center for the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences (ACISTE), and a founding member of the National Women's Studies Association's International Task Force on Women's Spiritualities. She is a lecturer in the Departments of Communication and American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Pr.



Dina Varano, MA, LMHC

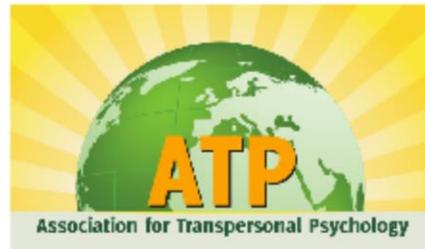
Dina is a depth psychotherapist, meditation instructor, and transformational coach. Integrating the best therapeutic modalities with her long-time study of the world's wisdom traditions, she loves working with those who are committed to the deeper soul work that is always at the heart of the healing journey. An empathic and experienced fellow traveler into the ineffable journey of an ever-awakening life, she is passionate about supporting others in discovering the beauty and vastness of their own inner joy, authenticity, and creativity. As a licensed mental health counselor, Dina has a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Northwestern University. She also has extensive experience working with the issues of childhood abuse, domestic violence, and other forms of traumatic stress. In addition to her private practice, she offers a variety of workshops and retreats to foster emotional and spiritual transformation.



Lydia Perez, LMSW

Lydia Christina Perez, LMSW, has served as a trainer for state investigators, as a higher education administrator, and as adjunct faculty for over 15 years within public, private and government education institutions. In addition to her background in therapeutic social work, administration, grant writing and teaching she is an experiencer of STEs and has volunteered in hospice. Lydia has served on various boards and committees and is currently a research assistant for the Windbridge Research Center and a PhD student of Psychology. Lydia's aspirations are simple: practice what you preach, research what you practice and educate others as they delve into their own processes of self-actualization. In alignment with this mission she is a registered yoga teacher in Ayurvedic Yoga and actively volunteers in her community. PhD (current), California Institute of Integral Studies, MSW, University of Northern Iowa, BSW, Our Lady of the Lake University

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Through marketing we can reduce the stigma surrounding counseling and spiritual transformative / transcendent experiences and help people get the support they need.

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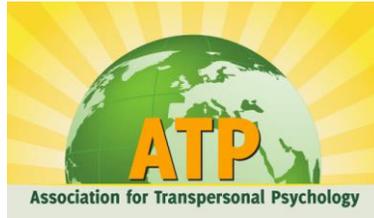
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The Association for Transpersonal Psychology is a membership supported, international coordinating organization for scientific, clinical, and educational transpersonal work. It serves the world community. ATP, a division of the Transpersonal Institute, was established in 1972 by a group of innovative pioneers. Their intention was to add the transcendent and spiritual aspects of human nature to the mainstream study and practice of psychology. The Association's focus is to promote individual, social, cultural, ecological, and spiritual transformation. It does this through its professional journal, conferences, salons, research, education, practice, and social action. TI/ATP recognizes the reciprocity inherent between our actions and our world. The Association is dedicated to encouraging and enhancing practices and perspectives that lead to a conscious, sustainable, evolution of nature, society, and culture.

Evidence of TI/ATP's success over the past 50 years includes: the wide-spread acceptance of the use of meditation in health care; an increased dialogue between science and spiritual traditions; scientific recognition of the importance of spiritual practice in maintaining personal health and well-being; the addition of a new V code in the DSM entitled, "Religious or Spiritual Problem"; and an increased recognition of the importance of spiritual values in conducting sustainable commerce. As we move through the 21st century, TI/ATP is dedicated to promoting more research, more concrete social action and engagement, and a vision of the universe as interconnected and sacred.

Our membership has represented more than 40 countries, and TI/ATP provides a forum for transpersonal organizations worldwide. Membership is open to those from all disciplines who share transpersonal interests and values.

In April 2019, TI/ATP hosted the 50th Anniversary International Transpersonal Conference at Asilomar Conference Grounds in California. The conference theme was "The Future of Transpersonal Psychology." The event acknowledged the 50 years of past contributions, honored the present impact, and began envisioning the future possibilities of the transpersonal field. The association is taking the information from that conference to restructure and modernize the association, develop new social action projects, and actively forge the path forward. For more information about TI/ATP and to join, please go to atpweb.org.

Our Mission Statement: *"Inspiring individual, societal, and global transformation"*

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