

Editorial

A Time of Transition

As we welcome you to the fifth semi-annual issue of *Integral Review* (IR), I would like to point to signs that mark a time of transition for this journal. Some are small, like shifting our table of contents headings to more clearly identify which works are peer reviewed, and changing the spacing between articles' paragraphs. Others are more obvious, like the ability and willingness to publish even longer works than previously, in addition to the ongoing array of works published. Some transitions are in process and less visible. For example, we are working to evolve IR's structure to reflect its degree of engagement from others, and making behind the scene shifts in our ability to better understand and realize the goals we set out to accomplish. We believe we are also becoming more effective in articulating for ourselves and to authors what is required for their work to make significant contributions to the discourse we are supporting (resulting in the publication of fewer peer reviewed articles in this issue). My naming this as a time of transition also reflects a sense of growth in the community of conversation which we are a part of, and how I perceive what lies beyond the horizon.

This feeling of transition arises from several sources. One is seeing the growth in the number of submissions over a broader range of topics that reflect an evolving quality of discourse. Another is seeing submissions begin to draw on and integrate work from past IR articles, furthering the cohesion and coherence of formal discourse within the journal. In essence, there is a feeling of maturation, and there are many signs of growth for the future.

We at IR like to see our mission, (to publish material that applies developmental approaches and employs metasystematic or other stages of integral thinking in the process of doing so), shared by others. One such instance that we are aware of is forthcoming in IR Advisory Board member Ervin Laszlo's journal, *World Futures: The Journal of General Evolution*. With Michael Commons, IR editor Sara Ross is co-editing a special issue invited by *World Futures* on postformal thought and the Model of Hierarchical Complexity, a general theory of development. We look forward to seeing the issue come out in 2008.

Another effort with a mission that resonates with IR's is the emerging field of Integral Studies, which is showing important signs of maturing. I want to congratulate Sean Esbjorn-Hargens and his crew at John F. Kennedy University (JFKU) for gaining formal WASC accreditation (the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the formal peer review accrediting body for higher education in California) for their new Masters in Integral Studies program. It would be hard to overstate the significance of this accomplishment, and it establishes a basis for bringing greater degrees of academic credibility to Integral Studies.

Another outgrowth of this work is the hosting of a conference, next summer, on Integral Theory by JFKU and Integrate Institute – <http://www.holons-news.com/node/86>. I know that some of us from IR are planning to participate, and we look forward to meeting some of our

readers at the conference. These events signal transitions in this community, which is one of those served by IR.

While there is transition and maturation in the air, there is also continuity. Our readership continues to grow steadily, and we are heartened by supportive feedback from many quarters. We are also having a very active discussion in our online forum of Gary Hampson's article from the last issue. While it is an invited forum, visitors can look through the postings here - <http://global-arina.org/phpBB/index.php>. These forums provide an opportunity to explore topics from IR articles in more depth and engage authors about their work. We are happy to be supporting an active and ongoing community of conversation in this way.

As before, part of our goal is to foster transdisciplinary discourse and critical public dialogue on issues of relevance to our mission. Thus IR invites responses to and reviews of articles, books or other works published in IR and other journals, including AQAL. We hope this contributes to cross-fertilizing new thought, research, and praxis for healthy change and development in our societies and relations.

On the Contents of Issue 5

We begin this issue with what is in many respects a groundbreaking contribution to our understanding of the evolution of consciousness. Jennifer Gidley's *The Evolution of Consciousness as a Planetary Imperative: An Integration of Integral Perspectives* is both a panoramic and an in-depth examination of the evolution of human consciousness drawn primarily from the perspectives of Rudolph Steiner, Jean Gebser and Ken Wilber. Her hermeneutical analysis and integration of their writings on this subject weave a rich and rigorous picture. The scope of this work also covers a range of related fields. We think it sets some strong foundations for moving academic discourse on the evolution of consciousness. Further, the conclusions emerging from this "integration of integrals" offer a tremendous sense of the opportunities for transformation that integral consciousness offers. We are very pleased to publish this monograph and its three equally rich appendices.

Next, Martin Matušík offers an essay on *Towards an Integral Critical Theory of the Present Age*. This piece builds on work done by past philosophers such as Habermas to identify a three-pronged model of material, socio-political, and spiritual critique of the present age. His model of an integral critical theory offers a way to transcend views that would limit discourse in these domains: he shows how appropriate critiques can be brought to each domain of human needs. This results in showing alternatives to current attitudes that can enable us to address current issues better.

My contribution to this issue of IR is in the form of a lengthy overview and response to Otto Scharmer's book, *Theory U. Leading from the Future as It Emerges. The Social Technology of Presencing*. The overview is intended as a sort of a "Cliff Notes," or highlight version of the book, as well as to entice readers to experience it for themselves.

This is followed by a short reflective essay from Josef San Dou, *Sent to Play on the Other Team*. This piece illustrates how a developmental view along with a different philosophy can

make a difference in the lives of children engaged in youth sports. The lessons drawn from the experience are also shown to apply to a wider set of situations in life.

Art and the Future: An Interview with Suzi Gablik by Russ Volckmann continues his series of unique interviews for IR. This conversation covers a wide range of topics related to Gablik's art and art critic career, venturing into the area of integral theory and its potential to help us understand the current world situation. Gablik also challenges us to be realists and walk the fine line between unwarranted optimism about the future and cynical pessimism.

Jan Inglis presents a brief examination of how one area of public discourse is struggling to evolve. In *Reactivity to Climate Change*, she demonstrates that while the content of conversation around climate change appears to have shifted, the underlying structure of the conversation has not. Her examples clearly illustrate how this phenomenon is stuck in a dualistic dynamic, and Inglis offers a possible way forward.

The issue concludes with a collection of short contributions from IR editors. Over the past three years we have learned a great deal about our craft and our roles in helping shape public discourse related to transdisciplinary and integral approaches to theory and practice. Various conversations among us led to realizing that readers, authors and potential authors might find it interesting to hear some of things we individually think about as we reflect on our work with IR.

As *Integral Review* continues through this time of transition, we invite you to engage with us in all the venues we provide: reading and sharing the journal with friends and colleagues, providing feedback and/or participating in our online forums, volunteering as external reviewers, and of course submitting your contributions for publication. We appreciate the continued support that we have had, and look forward to the future.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Reams
Editor-in Chief
Integral Review