

Editorial

We are pleased to welcome readers to our tenth year and thus the tenth volume of *Integral Review (IR)*! This current issue has four academic articles, two extended book reviews, a brief overview of developmental theory, an essay on social issues, and an analysis of the intersection of Wilber and Bhaskar's works.

The issue begins with an article by Verna DeLauer, Andrew Rosenberg, Nancy Popp, David Hiley and Christine Feurt on *The Complexity of the Practice of Ecosystem-Based Management*. DeLauer's dissertation on this topic was reviewed in IR last year by Thomas Jordan. We are pleased now to showcase part of that original research, because one of its valuable contributions is its emphasis on understanding preconditions for adults developing the capacities needed for managing complex issues. DeLauer *et al* provide a concrete, detailed account of the gap in complexity capacity between the demands of ecosystem-based management and the demands on those managing such a system. The authors analyze the complexity of meaning making of participants involved in the stakeholder management group. Recommendations out of the research include the need to attend to complexity-of-mind issues, the need for greater awareness of decision making processes, and a call for research partnerships between developmental psychologists and social scientists.

Next, Kevin Bowman focuses on *Correcting Improper Uses of Perspectives, Pronouns, and Dualities in Wilberian Integral Theory: An Application of Holarchical Field Theory*. This article builds on his agenda in previous articles published in the *Journal of Integral Theory and Practice*, to extend Wilberian meta-theory into what Bowman calls holarchical field theory. Bowman describes his purpose as encouraging "a more formal and consistent analysis of action and events between subjects and objects using Wilberian integral metatheory." He focuses on how alternatives to Wilber's use of grammar suffer from conflating philosophical and grammatical issues and he clarifies some applications of Wilber's integral mathematics. More broadly, Bowman's work contributes to the general topic of integral communication.

The third article is contributed by Latha Poonamallee and Sonia Goltz, *Beyond Social Exchange Theory: An Integrative Look at Transcendent Mental Models for Engagement*. The authors develop an "integrative conceptual framework capturing the underlying mental models that guide engagement in relationships at work and elsewhere." They examine both top down and bottom up mechanisms for explaining how to go beyond the current emphasis in social exchange theory on ego-centric behaviors. They present a three-layered integrative model to extend this discourse more fully to a tribal-centric domain and then into transcendent interdependent domains. Their goal "is to present a more complex picture of human cognition and behavior," and their approach makes a step in that direction.

The peer reviewed section of this issue concludes with Sara Ross's *A Developmental Behavioral Analysis of Dual Motives' Role in Political Economies of Corruption*, a developmental meta-analysis that integrates dual motive theory and the model of hierarchical complexity. It shows how and why political economies of corruption come into being as



functional patronage and clientelism and will most likely always persist in developmentally-predictable forms. Her analysis and case examples indicate why the political economies of “how things get done” clearly evolve along well-defined developmental stages, extending through all levels of all societies.

Opening the editorially reviewed section of this issue is Jonathan Reams’ *A Brief Overview of Developmental Theory, or What I Learned in the FOLA Course*. Information in this article is drawn from the Foundations of Lectical Assessment course I took in the fall of 2013. I take a lay person’s approach to understanding a broad range of the history and current state of the field of developmental psychology as presented in that course, along with some description of how Lectical assessments have been developed and applied. My reflections from this overview include problematic issues with the tendency towards “growth to goodness” orientations as well as reifications of stages that show up in common use.

Thomas Jordan presents some initial thinking and analysis he has done on a local social issue in *An Exploration of the Meaning-making of Vehement Hardliners in Controversial Social Issues: Reactions to Youth Unrest in Suburbs of Gothenburg Sweden*. This essay takes statements made by various people in online public forums discussing issues around youth violence in Gothenburg. Jordan analyzed hundreds of posts to understand measures citizens proposed to address youth violence. In particular, he seeks to understand the nature of *vehement hardliners* who take strong stances on the issue. His preliminary analysis leads to a tentative explanatory framework for how a weak level of complexity awareness leads to strong emotional reactions, judgments and aggressive attitudes.

Zak Stein reviews Marc Gafni’s recent work in *On Spiritual Books and their Readers: A Review of Radical Kabbalah*. As a philosopher of education, Stein is concerned with what people read, and the limitations of books as a technology of knowledge transmission. He is also concerned with distinguishing New Age types of spiritual teaching from more robust religious scholarship. He positions Gafni’s work as being beyond both academic and popular genres of writing. His appreciative review gives us a taste of the power that this form of writing can have when done well.

Another appreciative review comes from my recent reading of August Turak’s *Business Secrets of the Trappist Monks*, a book that encapsulates Turak’s lifetime of lessons learned through experiences in business and through spending large amounts of time with Trappist monks. The simplicity of the core principles could provide readers a powerful foundation to understand what makes for great leadership. The power of Turak’s story telling makes this an evocative read.

Bonnitta Roy examines the soteriological streams of Ken Wilber’s AQAL theory and Roy Bhaskar’s meta-Reality and shows how they are first seem to be flowing in divergent directions. She notices that whereas integral theory formulates salvation as additive or multiplicative (freedom + fullness, depth x span), for critical realism, the path to salvation is primarily a process of subtraction or absencing conditions or structures that occlude, hide, distort, or otherwise prevent us from accessing our innate and always-present state of original grace. This reveals two important questions. For integral theory; what drives the need for increasing

complexity? For meta-Reality; what gets in the way? The answers Bonnitta finds works its way into the recent online conversations between Wilber and Bhaskar and the different ways they conceive of the relationship between epistemology and ontology.

We hope this issue of *Integral Review* provides you with a useful diversity of perspectives to generate insights, and with research that can enhance your understanding and service in our increasingly complex world.



Jonathan Reams
Editor in Chief