

# Editorial

## IR's Advances

As we welcome you to the sixth semi-annual issue of *Integral Review* (IR), I would like to point to further signs of maturity for IR, some hinted at in the December 2007 issue's editorial, some new. The most important of these is the restructuring of IR. We have moved to a more traditional academic journal structure that builds capacity for taking our work to another level. This has meant that the small group of us who were previously referred to as the editorial board is now listed as associate editors. We thank Christine Harris for her service to IR, dating from its inception in 2004. Her life has taken her in new directions, which have led her to depart her IR editorial role. We wish her all the best in the future!

This restructuring makes our external review process more obvious and transparent. It involved enlisting new faces and competencies, forming a traditional editorial board to serve as the primary pool of peer reviewers. Some of those appointed to this new editorial board have already done reviews for IR, while others were recruited based on their academic qualifications and scope of work. Thus we are happy to formally welcome to the *Integral Review* Editorial Board Rosemarie Anderson, Roland Benedikter, Richard Couto, Mark Edwards, Nancy Glock-Grueneich, Sean Esbjorn-Hargens, Nathan Harter, Carol Hoare, Michael F. Mascolo, Richard McGuigan, Alfonso Montuori, Raymond Reyes, Judy Stevens-Long, and Gregory Wilpert. These appointments officially began in May, when board member names and institutional affiliations were uploaded to IR's website. At a later date, we will augment their listings with more information.

Another sign of maturing for IR was its acceptance in two academic arenas. The first is IR's listing in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ; <http://www.doaj.org/>). This service evaluates journals that apply for inclusion in it against a set of access and quality criteria. DOAJ aims to cover all subjects and languages; its directory currently includes 3,401 journals. From its website:

The aim of the Directory of Open Access Journals is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. The Directory aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use a quality control system to guarantee the content. In short a one stop shop for users to Open Access Journals.

In addition to this listing, in spring 2007, *Integral Review* was submitted to the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions for consideration. The NAHEI maintains a list of journals that it determines have met appropriate scientific and academic quality criteria. A review committee oversees the addition of journals to this list. The majority (90%) of journals on this list are on level 1; 10% are allowed to be nominated to be advanced to level 2, which is a more prestigious placement. Journals that do not meet criteria for these two lists are categorized simply as "other." Earlier this year, we received the good news that IR was awarded a place on



the level 1 list of journals. We are pleased to have IR's quality validated by this external review process. These signs of academic acceptance are symptomatic of the growing maturity of IR.

In line with these advances, we also draw your attention to another change, effective this issue. Consistent with our move to more traditional academic structure, we have converted to the volume and issue numbering system. Thus, rather than this current publication being called Issue 6, it is Volume 4, Issue 1.

Earlier this year, we made a technical upgrade to a new platform for IR article forums. This week, we launch the invited forum with author participation on Martin Matušík's essay on *Towards an Integral Critical Theory of the Present Age*, published in IR Issue 5, December 2007. Another invited forum with author participation will start in the near future: Jennifer Gidley's *The Evolution of Consciousness as a Planetary Imperative: An Integration of Integral Perspectives*. Already going is the open forum on the collective editorial in Issue 5; it is a platform for anyone who is interested to discuss the issues raised by the associate editors in that collective effort. The IR Occasional Newsletter (which you can receive by signing up here – [http://integral-review.org/email\\_issue/index.asp](http://integral-review.org/email_issue/index.asp)) and this website continue to be the way to stay informed on IR forum activity.

The further fertilization of discourse in the field of integral studies and theory is also getting a boost from John F. Kennedy University and the Integral Institute's first bi-annual integral theory conference – <http://www.integraltheoryconference.org/page/page/5594264.htm>. This event will see 500 participants, 100 individual presentations, 12 panels and 30 poster presentations gather August 7-10<sup>th</sup> at JFK University. All of us at IR are very pleased to see a dozen editors, editorial and advisory board members as well as author-contributors from IR presenting at this conference, where a number of us are also participating in panel presentations. IR will host an opening evening reception in the conference hotel, and have an IR information table at the university during the conference. We look forward to meeting more of IR's audience at this event!

## **On the Contents of Volume 4, Issue 1**

We open this issue with Sean Kelly's *Integral Time and the Varieties of Post-Mortem Survival*. This article covers a panoramic scope of philosophical thinking to explore questions of survival after bodily death. Kelly takes a novel path in exploring this topic, focusing on our conceptions of time. He draws from the works of Nietzsche, Barbour, Fechner, Whitehead, Hegel, Jung, Morin, Gebser and Aurobindo to present an alternative view of notions of the soul and reincarnation. In doing this he also models an integral way of thinking and inquiring. This article represents immense possibilities for future dialogue and inquiry on this subject, and we are pleased to open this up with the publication of Kelly's article.

This is followed by Sara Ross' *Using Developmental Theory: When Not to Play Telephone Games*. This article explores some of the challenges that arise from the application and use of developmental theory by non-experts in the field. Pointing to an error in a publication using developmental theory, Ross traces how this error has been passed along in telephone game style, leading to a wide range of ripple effects. She untangles the complex nuances involved in the

process of using formal theory in casual fashions, and calls for a response to help facilitate improved usage of developmental theory in the form of an Institute for Applied Developmental Theory.

These two peer reviewed pieces are followed by two interviews. The first is by Markus Molz, who engaged with Jennifer Gidley in *A Transversal Dialogue on Integral Education and Planetary Consciousness*. This fascinating conversation covers a brief summary of Gidley's project of integrating the integrals, an overview of large macro-historical evolutionary patterns in education, the introduction of five—mostly new—terms to integral theory, then explores some of the wide range of approaches to “third wave,” postformal education across cultures. They conclude by transcending the conceptual distinctions used for their dialogue, illustrating the power of such dialogues to evolve consciousness.

The second is Russ Volckmann's interview with Steve McIntosh, *An Approach to Integral Consciousness and Politics*. McIntosh's new book, *Integral Consciousness and the Future of Evolution* has been getting a lot of attention since its publication, and Volckmann's interview draws out many interesting aspects of McIntosh's thinking. Beyond exploring some of the usual topics of development and evolution, they also delve into faith, theology and spirituality in relation to the integral framework. There is also a robust exploration of critiques of Wilber's work and the realm of integral politics.

An artistic interlude follows with Andrew Campbell's *Central Fire*. Inspired by his reading of a draft of a submission to IR (that is yet to be published), Andrew invites us into the world of bold and expressive images that his art conveys with brief instructions to engage us in our own explorations of his art.

Andrew Campbell also contributes his art to Sara Ross' *A Lesson to be Writ Large?* This amusing personal story shows how easy it can be for any of us to be taken in by the interpretations we give to our experiences. When perception becomes reality, how do we limit ourselves? Ross' story closes with reflections on what transformations might be possible if we were able to apply the kinds of insights she gained through this humorous experience.

Another question is posed in Jan Inglis' essay *How Then Do We Choose to Live? Facing the Climate Crisis and Seeking “the Meta Response.”* Here she examines how our culture is going through marked stages of reaction to climate change similar to how people react to life threatening illnesses. She advocates for using what is known from going through stages of development in crafting a meta response to the issue. Her essay poses a number of thoughtful questions that can aid individuals in their personal reflections as well as guide collective public reflections as we move ever deeper into facing the realities of a changing climate.

*Appreciatively Critical Reflections on a Retreat with Adyashanti* is a reflective essay by Grady McGonagill (with a foreword by Bill Torbert and art by Andrew Campbell). This piece takes us on a personal journey that engages multiple levels of reflection and learning about Grady's experience at this retreat. With his action-research orientation, he articulates some of the paradoxes, challenges and perceived incongruities of those who take on guru roles in our society.

A similar theme arises in L.D. Gussin's novel *The Seeker Academy*, which I review. Gussin uses the experiences and narrative of his main character to explore themes, issues and opportunities of the New Age movement. This review describes the basic story line and then the ways in which Gussin manages to deftly portray the intertwined nature of people's motivations and ideologies for pursuing the kinds of beliefs that are prominent in the New Age movement. It closes with some reflections on why others have been unwilling to review the novel, which relate to the perspectives Gussin reveals.

Then we have a short review by Bonnitta Roy of *Consciousness-in-Action: Toward an Integral Psychology of Liberation and Transformation* by Raul Quiñones Rosado. Roy describes it as a useful and purposeful manual for people interested in social activism, and a wonderful *integrated* personal narrative that expands existing integral models into process versions.

Our final review for this issue comes from Sara Ross. *Integrative oncology: Principles and practice* edited by M. P. Mumber. Ross provides a thorough review and evaluation of this recent scientific text book, the first in the field of integrative oncology. Her chapter by chapter review essentially abstracts the entire text to provide a clear picture of the book's contents. Ross applies IR's evaluation criteria to the book, and offers a number of suggestions for areas in which the book or subsequent texts could further advance the stated aims of the field.

With this we close another issue of *Integral Review*. We hope that you will enjoy its contents as much as we have enjoyed working with the authors who created it.



Jonathan Reams  
Editor-in Chief  
*Integral Review*