

# Editorial

## Continued Growth: Further Expansion for Integral Review

Welcome to the third issue of *Integral Review*. With this issue, we accomplish our goal of producing issues on a semiannual basis, and continue to expand the community of authors, reviewers and readers of IR. With the publication of this issue, we also announce some exciting new additions to IR that we believe will support this community even further.

First, we are pleased to announce the formation of the *Integral Review* Editorial Advisory Board. This Board is a group of highly qualified individuals who have made intellectual and social contributions that are consistent with IR's mission and orientation. These volunteers provide support to the Journal's Editorial Board by extending our community into theirs and playing a mentoring role for our continued growth. We would like to welcome Michael Basseches, Ervin Laszlo, Ian Mitroff, Nancy Roof, Peter Russell, and William Torbert to this Advisory Board. You can find more information about each of these advisors on our website.

Second, we will implement online forum software to host ongoing dialogues on articles published in IR, and we are actively soliciting and supporting participation in such dialogues. IR's home page has a link to information about the initial forums based on selected articles in this issue. Please note that this issue's first article outlines the purposes and various guidelines related to different kinds of forums. We aim to have these dialogues begin in January.

In addition to the intrinsic value that participants in the integral dialogue forums may realize, we believe that these online knowledge building venues may become the basis for future articles, essays, or other types of works to be published in IR. This would become a cycle of original contributions being built upon by the contributions made in these forums, with the outcomes of the dialogues generating new original contributions, which may be built upon by further forums, and so on. This would be organic knowledge building, one quality of an openly collaborative community of inquiry.

I would also like to welcome Tom Murray to IR's Editorial Board. Tom brings a wealth of experience and insight into the arena of knowledge building communities, as he demonstrated in his article in Issue #2. Our capacity to support the dialogues described above has been greatly enhanced by his contributions to the Editorial Board, and we look forward to our continued work together.

As a brief note, I would like to mention that we have not yet seen the launch of *AQAL: Journal of Integral Theory and Practice*. Continued conversations with them have made us aware of some of the larger changes and challenges in the Integral Institute that have continued to have an impact on the expected publication of the journal. Thus, in this current issue, IR has not published reviews of articles from *AQAL* as Issue #2's Editorial anticipated, but we are looking forward to doing so in the future.

## On the Contents of Issue #3

As indicated above, Issue #3 begins with an outline of purposes and guidelines for integral dialogue, in Tom Murray's and Sara Ross' *Toward Integral Dialog: Provisional Guidelines for Online Forums*. This piece brings together elements of both authors' experience in dialogue as a

tool for knowledge building, combining theoretical background with practical examples and guidelines. It will serve as a point of reference for participants in the online dialogues hosted by IR, and its premises are transferable to other settings.

This is followed by a poem from Barbara Nussbaum, entitled *Tomorrow's Sunrise – A Plea for the Future You, Me and We*. To contribute to our reflections, Barbara takes us through a shifting set of perspectives woven together by her sense of our common humanity.

What happens when you bring together a group of people passionate about applying integral theory to international and local community development issues? You get *Four Days in France: An Integral Interlude*, a personal narrative by Tam Lundy on the excitement, enthusiasm and community that arose during this event. This informal report is a lovely mix of scene setting and insightful reflection conveying the spirit of those days.

Next, we have a *Rationale for an Integral Theory of Everything*, a description of the broad vision held by Ervin Laszlo on how this theory of everything could come to be. The brief, introductory article points out the role of science in coordinating our understandings of energy and “in-formation” that are essential to a theory of “every-thing.” We are happy to have this contribution from one of our Editorial Advisory Board members.

This is followed by my short book review of Nathan Harter's wonderful, recently released *Clearings in the Forest: On the Study of Leadership*. I thoroughly enjoyed both the depth and scope of vision Harter presented in this work, and highly recommend it to those interested in the study of leadership.

Another kind of review comes from Bonnitta Roy, in *The Map, the Gap, and the Territory*, a critical examination of methodological issues raised by two Matthew Rentschler articles on the topic of Integral Art, posted on the Integral University website. Bonnitta's approach aims to take us deep into the territory of art itself, to deepen how we approach making maps of such territory.

A beautiful example of the process Bonnitta describes is found next in Andrew Campbell's *The Dance Integral*. The opening piece of art came out of a story I told him in an early email exchange, and it continues to reveal layers of meanings and depth for both of us. Campbell writes as an artist about the creative process in a way that is deeply illuminating, and applicable to profoundly deep aspects of our lives.

We then have a German language opinion essay by Roland Benedikter, *Three Avant-garde Currents Within the Contemporary Intellectual Life in the United States – and in Their Relationship to Europe*. The essay, as the title indicates, examines the relationship of American integral thought, represented by Ken Wilber, Andrew Cohen and A.H. Almaas, to what is going on in Europe. These reflections offer a window into possible further dialogue between the continents and strains of thought within them.

Daniel Anderson also examines different strains of integral thought, specifically in Sri Aurobindo's work and its influence on the origins of integral theory. *Of Syntheses and Surprises: Toward a Critical Integral Theory* is a penetrating critique of how historical, contextual issues have played unacknowledged roles in the development of integral theory. He examines the origins of Aurobindo's “imperative to integrate” and offers direction for steps forward toward a critical integral theory.

Michael Commons introduces us to some of his latest thought, which crosses disciplinary boundaries on general intelligence (g) in a paradigmatic model that transcends and includes them. In *Measuring an Approximate g in Animals and People*, Commons outlines some of the background on how theories of intelligence have developed, then indicates how his approach to

general intelligence applies across species. This fascinating and controversial piece breaks new ground in the field, and we are pleased to be able to publish it here.

Russ Volckmann has contributed another fine interview, this time with long-time international development practitioner Courtney Nelson. *Integral Development: An Interview with Courtney Nelson* is a wonderful journey through Nelson's life of service with specific cases. He shares how his work in many developing countries led him to realize why the primary emphasis should be placed on human development when designing international aid and economic development programs.

We conclude this issue of *Integral Review* with Bonnitta Roy's *A Process Model of Integral Theory*. This is a substantive work in which Bonnitta brings together Eastern concepts of process with Western ones. It shows how a process *view* can open up new possibilities for understanding aspects of integral theory such as development, cognition, and more, including our own lived experience. This article challenges some very deep assumptions about how integral theory has been developed, and can be mined for a long time to fully reveal its depths.

I am very pleased to see this third issue of *Integral Review* come together the way it has. The variety of pieces, the depth of scholarly work, and the breadth of vision found in these pages should serve readers well.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Reams,  
Editor-in-Chief,  
*Integral Review*