

# Editorial

## A Growing Community of Inquiry

As we welcome you to the fourth issue of *Integral Review*, we mark the beginning of IR's third year of publishing a spectrum of academic and other works that—individually and/or taken as a whole—model integral ways of perceiving, thinking, researching, and serving the world we live in. We hope authors and readers are pleased to hear that site visits and article downloads have increased substantially and consistently, particularly over the past six months. We have focused on publishing works that can serve IR's audience as a variety of resources for being critically reflective and effective thought-leaders and change agents—and to inform, support, and challenge readers in new ways. The journey from that beginning two years ago has been rewarding, and today we find a solidly growing community of authors, readers, reviewers and editors contributing to IR's mission.

Part of this mission has manifested in hosting a series of online dialogues to critically explore selected articles in Issue 3. Over the past four months these dialogues engaged in serious inquiry into the questions raised by the articles they focused on. We thank the authors and participants for their engagement in these forums. Both the content and the process proved to be valuable for learning, and will be the subject of a future report. As with most experiments, these initial ones produced some unexpected highlights as well as some realizations about the challenges and rewards of online dialogues that will inform our next steps.

IR has expanded with the addition of Andrew Campbell as Arts and Creativity editor. Andrew brings a depth of experience with the creative process and fine arts to IR's editorial board. His regular contributions to the journal continue to invite reflection and exploration of what it means to engage in and be enriched by the creative process.

We are also pleased to see the launch of *AQAL: Journal of Integral Theory and Practice*. The release of four inaugural issues in the first volume has produced a large amount of material on the integral paradigm from the perspective of the AQAL model, enriching the conversation space. Congratulations to Ken Wilber, Sean Esbjorn-Hargens, Matt Rentschler and David Zeitler for their perseverance to bring this journal to fruition.

As part of our goal to foster transdisciplinary discourse and critical public dialogue, IR invites responses to and reviews of articles in a wide range of journals, including AQAL. We hope this contributes to cross-fertilizing thought, research, and praxis for healthy change and development in our societies and relations.

## On the Contents of Issue 4

We begin this issue with our regular contribution from Andrew Campbell. His *That Matchless Veil of Colour* weaves together insights of the creative process, art and leadership reflected in the intersection of the artistic renderings of Turner and an inquiry into notions of source. The interplay of personal notes, life events, correspondences and quotes with Andrew's threads of text and well chosen artistic images brings a layered depth to the piece.

Sara Ross contributes a substantial review of Keith Ross's *Knowing Me, Knowing You: An Integrated SocioPsychology Guide to Personal Fulfillment & Better Relationships*. Her review

offers a quick synoptic overview of Rice's work followed by a detailed overview of the contents covered. She then goes into an appreciative and critical set of reflections and questions that covers a number of topics that highlight some of the challenges in putting together a work of the scope taken on by Rice.

Keith Rice then responds to Sara's review in a manner that reveals some of the process and context behind the development of his book, and how this process impacted the final product. He discusses the tensions between producing an academic work and something that could be utilized by a broader audience with more of a self-help orientation, as well as addressing Sara's specific concerns with the book.

I then review Bill Joiner and Stephen Joseph's book *Leadership Agility. Five Levels of Mastery for Anticipating and Initiating Change*. My appreciative overview of this book stems from years of study in the field of leadership and my ongoing search for better ways to communicate the critical distinctions that an integral approach can provide.

Next we have a descriptive case study, *Humanity, Forest Ecology, and the Future in a British Columbia Valley: A Case Study* by Stephan Martineau. I have a great appreciation for the story Stephan tells, having lived for twenty years in an adjacent valley with similar challenges. While this story is grounded in the particulars of its own time and place, it also reflects challenges faced anywhere conflicts over resources, rights and values come together in specific issues. I would like to congratulate Stephan and his group for persevering through years of dialogue across diverse interest groups to actually have achieved their first goal of being granted a community forest license.

Following this case study comes *Exploratory Perspectives for an AQAL Model of Generative Dialogue*, Olen Gunnlaugson's piece is an examination of how the AQAL model can offer deeper distinctions to the approach of generative dialogue when it is nested within it. Olen focuses on exploring how Otto Scharmer's description of generative dialogue can be augmented by running it through the filters that AQAL can provide. This produces some useful insights that await application to see how they can contribute to praxis.

Herb Koplowitz offers us a personal yet rigorous reflection on *How I Lost My Mind and Found the Meaning of "Life."* His narrative demonstrates how a moment of insight can open up a new conceptual framework. In this case, the results confront some of our deepest assumptions about life, and offer us an opening into reflecting on our own conceptual frameworks and how they can imprison us.

*Transdisciplinarity: Basarab Nicolescu Talks with Russ Volckmann* continues Russ' contribution of fascinating interviews that go to the core of issues central to the question of what integral thought can "look like." Nicolescu opens up profound territory in his overview of how transdisciplinarity evolved and differs from interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to scientific inquiry. Among the many fascinating discussions he goes into levels of reality and how a unity in pluralism exists in his approach.

This is appropriately followed by Zachary Stein's *Modeling the Demands of Interdisciplinarity: Toward a Framework for Evaluating Interdisciplinary Endeavors*. Stein's objective is to contribute to developing a "language of evaluation" that is comprehensive enough to critically analyze the spectrum of "disciplinarieties." He examines the complexity involved in such endeavors and offers a developmental science-based taxonomy for evaluation. This is followed by looking at the validity challenges faced. We think he makes a noteworthy contribution to examining individual and group competencies for distinguishing and integrating disciplines, perspectives, and levels-of-analysis.

Finally, we have Gary Hampson's *Integral Re-reviews Postmodernism: The Way Out Is Through*. This extended-length article tackles the often contentious relationship between postmodernism and perspectives on what it is and does. Gary employs finesse in his theoretical, hermeneutical, and ecological rigor in this project. He offers a depth of analysis and artful choice of approaches that are instructive and illuminating. For example, his analysis challenges assumptions about Derrida and "deconstruction." His work makes a substantial contribution to clarifying this and other common perspectives that—in light of his analyses—appear to be less grounded in reality than is often supposed.

As *Integral Review* continues to pursue its mission though contributions such as the above, I hope that it attracts and inspires a growing community to engage in new thought, research, and praxis through the various forms of participation that we offer.

Sincerely,



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