Editorial

Jonathan Reams¹

Welcome to this issue of Integral Review (IR)! We are pleased to welcome you to a new regular issue, which brings together a number of interesting articles, essays and a number of reviews.

It has been two years since our last regular issue of Integral Review in August of 2018. While we have been pleased to be engaged with and publish two special issues since then, (one on post metaphysical spirituality (link here) and another on the STAGES model (link here)) we are always excited when we are able to pull together a new regular issue. These issues are a long journey, through many different kinds of processes for the authors, reviewers and editors involved. Despite these differences, all of the contributions in this issue can be perceived as forms of advancing our understanding of an integral view of the world and our participation in it. There is a nice mix of themes explored, from adult development in many forms and uses through various forms of engagement with the world to leadership.

I find myself in a privileged position as editor-in-chief, in that I am able to not only enjoy the final products of the authors, but am also able to learn things between the lines as I observe and engage with the journey they go through as critical perspectives come from reviewers, ideas get refined and clarifications emerge. The enrichment that comes from this process has been invaluable to me over the past 15 years in this position and I am grateful for the learning that comes with the role and work. It is my wish that you can extract as much of the depths of knowledge and experience our authors share as I have.

Our peer reviewed section for this issue contains three articles. We begin with Thomas Jordan’s Scaffold Developmental Transformation Among Immigrants in Order to Facilitate Self-Directed Integration: Practices and Theories of Change, which presents research from a study of six Swedish programs designed to help immigrants in their process of integrating into Swedish society. Jordan focuses on understanding what implicit and or explicit theories of change are behind the design of these programs and analyzes these through the lenses of various adult development frameworks. In addition, he examines the practices used in these programs to produce and inventory of such resources that can be utilized by other practitioners. This research provides clear ideas about how development can be scaffolded in this particular context based on these examples of current practice. Jordan does not attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of the practices used, but can point to a set of “promising practices” that, along with his analysis of the theories behind them, can help researchers and practitioners further develop this field.

¹ Jonathan Reams is Editor-in-Chief of Integral Review, holds a position at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, is co-founder of the Center for Transformative Leadership and the European Center for Leadership Practice, and does consulting and leadership development work for a variety of clients around the world.
jonathan.reams@ntnu.no
Tom Bohinc, Jonathan Reams and Richard Claydon follow with *The Prometheus Leadership Commons: A Meta-Framework for Leadership and Leadership Development*. This article is the result of an initiative to address key emerging issues in the field of leadership development; professionalizing leadership and helping leaders, leadership development specialists, researchers and others navigate the plethora of ideas and approaches around how to lead. Through a grounded theory inspired process, a group of researchers and practitioners developed a meta-framework aimed at addressing these issues. The authors describe this process, along with a selection of conceptual contexts used, and then present the resulting framework (the meta becomes burdensome eventually so is dropped) with layers of illustrations and examples to show how it can be used. The discussion addresses key issues involved in a project of this scope and helps to position the framework in relation to various aspects of related discourse. A set of recommendations for ongoing work based on the foundation this framework provides are also presented.

Ben Bjorgaard takes us on a deep dive into *Stage Models of Adult Development: A Critical Introduction to Concepts, Debates, and Future Directions*. Bjorgaard provides an overview of concepts related to the evaluation of stage models, goes into key distinctions, looks at issues related to models and metrics as well as the constructs themselves. He also examines the move beyond developmental psychology into relational developmental science. Bjorgaard lays all this out in relation to his perception of a need to evolve the hard science around generalizable measurement and related philosophical advances related to ongoing synthesis and contextual application.

Our editorially reviewed section contains a rich collection of articles touching on a diverse range of topics. We begin with John E. Thomas, Thomas P. Seager, Thomas J. Murray and Scott Cloutier’s *Being Prepared to be Unprepared: Meaning Making is Critical for the Resilience of Critical Infrastructure Systems*. The article dives into the importance of applying growth in complexity of meaning making to the field of infrastructure systems. We all rely on infrastructure systems in everyday life and enabling resilience in such systems has come more into focus recently. The authors examine the intersection of human and technological systems and bring to the foreground that these highly complex systems require adequately complex meaning making from decision makers.

Amiel Handelsman brings together two worlds of discourse and practice that seldom meet; Immunity to Change and the Enneagram. In *Nine Paths of Growth: Integrating Immunity to Change with the Enneagram* he brings together his many years of practice in both fields and how he sees practical advantages in making more explicit links between them. This article provides us not only introductions into both fields, but Handelsman’s lovely touch to the process of showing us three different ways we can mesh these two models and processes to gain greater effectiveness in our work helping people uncover and address underlying beliefs.

Bill Torbert and Aftab Erfan have written up a piece that began with some online conversations, *Possible Mistakes of Late Action-Logic Actors in a Polarized World*. In this playful exploration of the topic, they help us reflect on the lesser focused on side of development. While there is plenty of research and reports on the benefits of moving into late or post conventional stages, there is much less on the potential shadow sides, or types of mistakes that can emerge at these later stages. Their exploration covers a dozen ways in which we can fall prey to the hubris of development.
Mark Shraga brings us a combination of subtle sensitivity with very embodied practice in Aikido and the Pursuit of a Better Life. He uses firsthand experience of how engaging in Aikido as a practice has enabled him to live a better life. He links the practice with theories or mind and then shows us how the very physical practices of Aikido have very subtle and powerful foundations and implications. From the simplicity of how to fall, to deepening our understanding of working with flows of energy and related concepts, Shraga illuminates a number of aspects of not only Aikido, but also of how we engage the world in general.

Frank Visser has engaged in laying out a clear and thorough set of critiques related to Ken Wilber’s Problematic Relationship to Science. He examines Wilber’s approach to evolution, carefully laying our Wilber’s stance and claims for this. He then examines how various scientists describe evolution and uses this to as a lens to evaluate Wilber’s approach to, claims and stance in this topic. He finds a number of places where Wilber presents what Visser shows as problematic claims for how science has failed and where Wilber claims support from, as well as superiority to, scientists’ own approach to evolution.

Turning to how evolution is viewed from an empirical scientist, Marilyn Monk builds on her long and distinguished career of research in molecular biology to present A Hierarchy of Consciousness from Atom to Cosmos. In this essay, she lays out how, independent from the various philosophical or consciousness studies related approaches to evolution and based on her decades of empirical work, a clearly hierarchical model of consciousness became clear to her. While many are familiar with such models from Wilber or others, Monk describes how we can make the same claims without resorting to philosophical or other types of presuppositions.

We are pleased to be able to publish Jonathan Rowson’s account of his encounter with Jordan Peterson, An Epistemic Thunderstorm: What We Learned and Failed to Learn from Jordan Peterson’s Rise to Fame. This piece, originally written two years ago as a way of processing his encounter with Peterson, re-engages this topic to not only help give us well elaborated points to consider as ways of sorting our own perceptions and possible impact from Jordan Peterson, but also helps lift the debate Peterson has stirred to a broader level about how we engage, respond to and most importantly, learn from such characters as they inevitably arise in popular society.

The final offering in the editorially reviewed section comes from Wendelin Küpers, who offers us a delightful and playful philosophical, even theatrical meta journey through time and perspective, with Daring of Be(com)ing Wise: Perspectives on Embodied ‘Sapere Aude’ Enlightened for Today. He sets the stage (literally) by contextualizing the Enlightenment urge for wisdom contained in all times and cultures and uses the admonition to ‘dare to think’ as a reference point. Once this stage is set, he introduces the scene containing a rich mix of those who have dared to think, starting with ancient Greeks and moving all the way to current times, giving voice to these thinkers in a dialogue format. This rich feast of conversation leaves us with an even richer set of questions to ponder going forward.

Finally, we have a rich set of book reviews in this issue. Elke Fein provides us with an extensive review of Hanzi Freinacht’s The Listening Society. A Metamodern Guide to Politics to open this section. She begins with a comprehensive description of the contents of the book, enabling us to get a reasonably good understanding of the intent, scope and approach to Freinacht’s ideas. Fein
then delves deeper into some appreciative and critical perspectives on this work. This includes some stylistic or attitudinal components as well as questioning some of the more specific content claims being made especially in relation to the model Freinacht puts forward. In the end, we see that while Fein is not convinced that the idea of metamodern has been sufficiently distinguished from integral, it might still serve as a rallying point for a new generation of people eager to have a better foundation for their activism.

Verna DeLauer reviews *Loving water across religions: Contributions to an integral water ethic*. She introduces earlier work on a ‘land ethic’ that is now being applied to the topic of water and described how the author McAnally presents water as a social issue and invites us into considering our subjective experience of it rather than just the commodification or it as a natural resource. For this, DeLauer describes how McAnally explores how major religions have used water in their traditions and closes showing how contemplative practices can be used to deepen our appreciation for and relationship to water.

Marilyn Hamilton reviews *The Future Has Other Plans: Planning Holistically to Conserve Natural and Cultural Heritage*. She provides us with an extensive overview of the contents of the book, mixed with her own comments related to how the authors present the themes they explore. The extra time and work it takes to do this kind of holistic planning is seen to be more than worth the effort when it comes to the outcomes possible.

Shameeka Smalling reviews *The Body is Not an Apology: The Power of Radical Self-Love*, providing us with a window into an application of transformational reframing of issues, in this case, how our relationship with our own bodies can be transformed through the vehicle of radical self-love. TBINAA is not only a book but also a popular movement. Smalling provides us a succinct overview and commentary on the book and links it to her own experience and contemporary movements like transnational Black feminism.

We close with my own indulgence in the field of mysticism with a review of two books by IR author Doug Marmon: *The Hidden Teachings of Rumi* and *It Is What It Is. The Personal Discourses of Rumi*. Marmon has shown his ability to dig deep and go behind the prevailing views in his work on understanding quantum physics. In these two books, Marmon and colleagues apply the same principle to the works of Persian mystical poet and Sufi, Rumi. My interest in presenting this work to a broader audience stems from the impact it has had for me, deepening my appreciation for Rumi, but also deepening subtle aspects of my own practice.

It has been my and our pleasure as editors of Integral Review to bring together this collection of articles for your enjoyment, enrichment and even evolution of understanding. Hope you enjoy it!