

# Editorial

We are happy to publish another “regular” issue of *Integral Review* amidst a shifting publication schedule over the last year. This time has been busy with a greater number of special issues than regular ones! Some of this current issue’s contributors—and perhaps some of our readers—have been eager for quite a while to see publication of another of *IR*’s diversity-rich regular issues. With this current issue we are now able to provide a number of articles that have been in process for a long time, and are excited to have them available for the public.

Special issues offer the service of deeper dives into cutting-edge arenas, and *IR* has made a commitment to providing this venue to help it fulfill its mission while it furthers others’ missions and interest areas. One implication of publishing special issues is that shifts our former semi-annual publication of regular issues. Thus while we will continue to publish regular issues of *IR*, the schedule will vary according to evolving conditions.

Along those lines, in the early spring of 2012 we expect to publish a special issue, edited by Markus Molz and Mark Edwards, comprised of papers from last year’s *Research Across Boundaries* symposium. That event produced some very good interchanges among scholars in multiple integral domains and we look forward to publishing the proceedings. *IR* will also publish another special issue edited by Bahman Shirazi from CIIS in the first half of 2012, following on the recent proceedings from CIIS’s annual symposium. We are hearing ideas for proposals of additional special issues and invite more such proposals. *IR* is uniquely positioned for this role and happy to exploit it, given its mission to publish integral approaches to transdisciplinary thought, research, and praxis that are too-often rejected by discipline-based journals.

We are also aware of a number of new activities relevant to our community of readers. We look forward to highlighting some of these in upcoming issues of our periodic newsletter. In addition, we invite readers to submit items they feel would be of interest to our community. Of course we also always encourage authors to submit works to us that you feel would meet our criteria and be of interest to our readers.

This issue is comprised of 16 diverse contributions, yet even throughout such disparate works are woven several related themes we suggest are particularly meaningful in this second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. One prominent theme is the pressing demand for highly-developed performance capacities in individuals and collectives if today’s social and political complexities are to be understood in complex-enough ways for us to deal with them. Another theme is a necessary, though not sufficient, subset of the first: the role of sufficiently-complex self-reflexive capacities—on individual and collective levels—that enable keen observations and analyses of self, others, and the world we all operate in. And interwoven with these is another theme: the roles of impact-aware activism and leadership. We are grateful to this issue’s contributors for playing leadership roles, themselves, by offering the fruits of their labors for publication.

Jan Inglis launches all three themes by identifying an unrecognized challenge that, if it goes unmet, poses dire consequences. In “*Holistic Democracy*” and *Citizen Motivation to Use a More*



*Holistic Approach to Public Decision Making*, Inglis goes beyond her report on a small research project to explicate the implications and possible resolutions of a catch-22, a trap that we might say has the world by its tail: “people cannot commit to using a new, more time-consuming method [for holistic public decision making about issues] without experiencing what it entails and they cannot experience what it entails without committing time to do so.” Her article unpacks why abandoning our quick-fix and “leave it to others to solve” mindsets is more essential than we seem to realize, and names some requisite methods and capacities to do so.

In *Skillful Engagement with Wicked Issues: A Framework for Analysing the Meaning-Making Structures of Societal Change Agents*, Thomas Jordan offers a highly systematized approach to examining the strong to weak continuum of societal change agents’ awareness of task complexity, context, stakeholders, self, and perspective, and the vital relationships of these dimensions for sufficiently comprehensive activism and change leadership. Why does this matter? In these times, we’d say it *does* matter that we possess tools to help us assess how change efforts are conceived, how they are organized, how they are implemented, and why they do or not achieve socially-necessary results. Our penchant for following or supporting charismatic change agents should be informed by analysis of efforts’ comprehensiveness and probabilities for effectiveness. Jordan’s framework is a tool in that analytical toolbox.

Tom Murray drills down into and explicates capacity issues, some of which were emphasized by Inglis and Jordan, in his article primarily addressed to the community of integral theory and practice but apropos to all efforts intended to foster transformative praxis. His *Toward Post-metaphysical Enactments: On Epistemic Drives, Negative Capability, and Indeterminacy Analysis* is an argument for epistemic wisdom and what it demands of us: “*whether* we believe in a god, or in capitalism, or an evolutionary omega point, is less important than *how* we hold that belief, and *how* we hold it is a matter of skills.” Such epistemic wisdom is the fruit of a number of skills Murray carefully delineates. Since skills are acquired through practice and supported by a community of practice, reading Murray alone will not foster the development of such wisdom. His article is a clarion call for individual and collective reflexion, reflection, inquiry, and new skills in action, for all to heed if “second tier” transformative impacts are truly goals.

The remaining works published in this issue afford concrete applications of these themes. Benedikter argues for epistemic wisdom in connection with assumptions about paradigm change and if and where it manifests. Relevant capacities of notable individuals are examined: luminary Dag Hammarskjöld, former UN Secretary-General (by Kristian Stålne) and 2011 Norwegian terrorist Anders Behring Breivik (by Pelle Billing and Kristian Stålne). Our collective relationship to global change and capacity to be effective in that relationship is examined by Stewart Brand (by Russ Volckmann), and the integral community’s relationships to AQAL and a lesser-known indepth development and deployment of AQAL are reflected upon by two participant-contributors in the 2010 Integral Theory Conference (by Hugh and Kay Martin). These pieces invite new lenses on people, phenomena, and epistemic wisdom.

New lenses support insight, and aesthetic insights support transformative action in a world that so sorely needs it. *Wauld*, by *IR’s* Arts & Creativity Editor Andrew Campbell, and *Into the Long* by Sara Wolcott, both invite multifaceted gazes: micro and macro, near-sighted and far-sighted, short term and long term. We hope zooming in and zooming out on both of these

contributions fosters aesthetic intuitions and insights on themes not only in this issue but also in readers' lives.

Finally, this issue offers reviews of a handful of recent books, which, as it turns out, elaborate on themes in the rest of this issue: *Organizational Transformation for Sustainability: An Integral Metatheory* by Mark G. Edwards, *Hope for Humanity: How Understanding and Healing Trauma Could Solve the Planetary Crisis* by Malcolm Hollick and Christine Connelly, *Political and Civic Leadership: A Reference Handbook*, edited by Richard A. Couto, *La Voie: Pour l'avenir de l'humanité* by Edgar Morin, and finally *Transversity: Transdisciplinary Approaches in Higher Education* by Sue L. T. McGregor and Russ Volckmann.

We sincerely hope *IR's* readers will enjoy this issue as much as we have enjoyed preparing it!



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