

Perspective

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ATP NEWSLETTER



REMEMBRANCE OF GEORGE LEONARD

REVIEWS

**THE AKASHIC EXPERIENCE:
SCIENCE AND THE COSMIC MEMORY
FIELD** BY ERVIN LASZLO

**MEDICAL RENAISSANCE SERIES:
THE SECRET CODE** BY NORM SHEALY

**STARING AT THE SUN:
OVERCOMING THE TERROR OF
DEATH** BY IRVIN YALOM

**SOUL SHAPING: A JOURNEY OF
SELF-CREATION** BY JEFF BROWN

**HEALING TRAUMA: ATTACHMENT,
MIND, BODY, AND BRAIN** EDITED BY
MARION SOLOMON & DANIEL SIEGEL

**SOUL SURVIVOR: THE REINCARNATION
OF A WORLD WAR II FIGHTER
PILOT** BY LEINSTER, LEINSTER & GROSS



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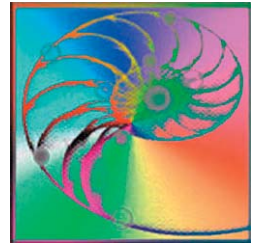
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archives of the past ATP conferences from 1990 to the present

11th EUROTAS Conference Report

— P. L. Lattuada

Reflections from the organizer: **Gratitude:** Round sun and fragrance of humid earth smiles me in the heart the memory of days spent together in Milan. The felt sense is that of a spiritual experience of brotherhood and professional value. Personally I am grateful, deeply grateful to the board of EUROTAS (European Transpersonal Association) which honored me with the confidence needed. And to all the presenters and all the participants: You have been extraordinary. The feedback we received was enthusiastic, very appreciative with some constructive criticism.

Quality: To organize the 11th EUROTAS Conference was a fascinating journey from the personal and transpersonal point of view. The organizational machine fired up right after the Barcelona Eurotas Conference, thus in November 2008. Once the date was set, the Mother giving birth, love, dedication, and confidence were the qualities that we immediately knew were necessary.

First Step: The first step, already taken in Barcelona, after having chosen the title and the date, and shared with the board of EUROTAS, was the appointment of the webmaster (Saint Erich) and the preparation of the site.

Organization: At the same time we started with the preparation of a business plan, choosing the location and making decisions about the duration and structure of the event. Eleonora, our General Assistant was the soul of the Organization. With-

out her, nothing would have been possible, the numerous difficulties would not have been surmounted. We learned quickly not to invest too many resources in publicity in the media, which has high cost and low return. We gave priority to the personal contact with those who already had experience with prior Eurotas conferences.

Presenters: With the sending out of the call for papers, the public phase of the 11th EUROTAS Conference was initiated. Then we started on the long and fascinating adventure of contact with all the presenters: their proposals and requests. Every email a world, each contact a teaching. The relationship with each of you has been full. We lived "wired" for a



CARMELA MARCIONELLI LATTUADA, STAN GROF, PIER LATTUADA LUIGI

whole year. You not only entered into our computers, but also into our bodies, into our breath, into our minds, into our souls.

Volunteers: The heights the conference reached have been due to the brilliant splendor of the volunteers. A force coming directly from the heart without which the conference could not have been realized.

The Numbers: Presenters: 125, Total participants: 370, Countries: 24, Volunteers: 34, Staff: 19, Sponsors: 2 for €4,000, Films: 2, Events: 5

Account: Our heart is happy. The 11th EUROTAS Conference seemed to all a Conference of good quality, characterized by the presence of many cutting-edge professionals, a good

atmosphere, and active participation of the public.

12TH INTERNATIONAL EUROTAS CONFERENCE IN GWATT, SWITZERLAND

Knowledge, Pleasure, & Belief

SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 3, 2010

How do Knowledge and Belief influence each other? How do Art and Research play with each other? How can we create a life among materialism religion, and science? We look beyond the narrow confines of conventional belief systems and areas of knowledge to create combinations, integration, and visions among these fields.

Transpersonal Psychology, modern spirituality, and integral consciousness will mediate in a new way. They will bridge anthropological tradition and postmodern living, and be a source of inspiration and understanding within the arts, creative psychotherapy, and everyday living. The splendid Bernese Oberland surroundings will inspire us.

We will work collaboratively to crystallize the essentials of what all human beings have in common. What inspires us? What moves us? Makes us happy?

U. Z. Rüeegg, M.D., President of the Swiss Transpersonal Association extends an invitation: Does this proposal make you curious? Are you personally and/or professionally engaged in networking the above fields? Submit your presentation, workshop, or contribution. With great joy I invite you on behalf the Swiss ATP to the 12th Eurotas.

Contact <http://www.eurotas.org> or the Swiss ITP, Halenstrasse 10 CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland.

ATP NEWSLETTER



THE 2008 JUBILEE DIAMOND DELUSIONAL (ERRATIC) ARCHBOULDER AWARDED TO PROFESSOR DR. STANISLAV GROF, M.D., PH.D.

— David Lukoff

The controversial nature of transpersonal psychology research at this time of paradigm clash can be illustrated by the response to Stan Grof's research by the academic circles of his native country, Czechoslovakia. In October 2007, Stan received the prestigious award

VISION 97 from the Foundation of the Czech ex-president Vaclav Havel and his wife Dagmar. Former recipients of the annual VISION 97 Award include the brain researcher and neurosurgeon Karl Pribram, the former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, the psychologist Phillip G.

Zimbardo, the MIT professor of computer science and pioneer in Artificial Intelligence Joseph Weizenbaum, and the semiotician and writer Umberto Eco. The Havel Foundation gives this description of their award:

VISION 97 is given to thinkers whose scientific work transcends the dominant concepts of knowledge and

being, reveals unknown, surprising, or overlooked connections, and touches in a new way the mysteries of the universe and of life. It is thus an Award by which we would like to bring the attention of the public to spiritual achievements, which in the best sense of the word do not meet the criteria

Seven years earlier (in 2000), the Committee of Club Sisyphus, a group of Czech academicians functioning as self-appointed defenders of rationality and judges of the purity of science, gave Stan a mock award called "Delusional (Erratic) Boulder." This group—like its American model CSI-

COP—is headed by an astronomer (Dr. Grygar). Their annual award is intended to express the club members' ridicule of "silly individuals" who have spent years of hard labor (like Sisyphus) and produced something utterly absurd that makes



STAN GROF RECEIVES THE VISION 97 AWARD, REPRESENTED BY THE STAFF OF ADALBERT, FROM VACLAV AND DAGMAR HAVEL IN PRAGUE

of the established ways of exploring of reality. The Foundation also tries—in the spirit of its name—to orient itself in the direction of what in a certain way points to the future, what transcends the horizon of momentary attractive opportunities, but may not be appreciated and validated until some years pass. What is in a certain way visionary and pioneering,

no sense to rational thinkers. They explained why Stan deserved the Delusional Boulder:

This award is given for melding the shamanic techniques of hyperventilation into the so-called Holotropic Breathwork, which can cause a chemical storm in the brain and evoke in the obnubilated individuals extraordi-

nary sensations and experiences. Dr. Grof gives the babbling accounts of doped hyperventilators the status of reality; he deduced from them even the concept of Cosmic Consciousness. According to Grof, human consciousness can through the change of Ph of the blood detach from the body and transport to one of the past lives or to the time of biological birth. Dr. Grof is also the cofounder of a “canine–feline (dog–cat) discipline”—transpersonal psychology—which is trying to unite science and spirituality.



SILVER, GOLD, AND BRONZE
DELUSIONASL BOULDER AWARDS

After Stan had received the VISION 97 Award from the Havel Foundation, the infuriated members of the Sisyphus Club created for Stan a special category and awarded him in 2008 the “Jubilee Diamond Delusionasl (Erratic) Archboulder.”

In *When the Impossible Happens: Adventures in Non-Ordinary Reality*, Stan wrote:

I think it reflects well the paradigm clash we are experiencing and the controversial nature of our work. The challenging observations from consciousness research amassed in the second half of the twentieth century and the basic tenets of transpersonal psychology encountered incredulity and strong intellectual resistance in academic circles. Transpersonal psychology, as it was born in the late 1960s, was culturally sensitive and treated the ritual and spiritual traditions of ancient and native cultures with the respect they deserve in view of the findings of modern conscious-



JIRI GRYGAR LEADING
DELUSIONASL BOULDER CEREMONY

ness research. However, although comprehensive and well-substantiated in and of itself, the new field represented such a radical departure from academic thinking in professional circles that it could not be reconciled with either traditional psychology and psychiatry or the Newtonian–Cartesian paradigm of Western science. As a result, transpersonal psychology was extremely vulnerable to accusations of being irrational, unscientific, and even “flaky,” particularly by scientists who were not aware of the vast body of observations and data on which the new movement was based. These critics also ignored the fact that many of the pioneers of this revolutionary movement had impressive academic credentials. These pioneers generated and embraced the transpersonal vision of the human psyche not because they were ignorant of the fundamental assumptions of traditional science, but because they found the old conceptual frameworks seriously inadequate in accounting for their experiences and observations. Closer scrutiny reveals that what they present as an image of reality that has been scientifically proven beyond any reasonable doubt is a colossus on clay feet supported by a host of a priori metaphysical assumptions.

Stan ends his reflection on this award by quoting Albert Einstein: *Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods.*

Visit www.stanislavgrof.com

Student Conference Organizational Meeting

The Past, Present, and Future Maturation of Transpersonal Psychology, MARCH 19, 2010

Our field is entering its midlife years, a time to reflect upon what was accomplished, for example respect for diverse spiritual traditions and for personal spiritual experiences and practices, what revisions and self-critiques are called for, and what new issues we might want to commit to in the 21st century, including attending the Moscow June 2010 International Conference. In 2011, ATP will sponsor a student-organized Student Transpersonal Conference. Come to this organizational meeting to help in its creation, and develop your skills in event-production, research presentation, and community-building.

OTHER TRANSPERSONAL EVENTS

April 9 Romantic Love as a Spiritual Path, “Where [romantic partners] worship one another is the play of the divine.” Tantra Scriptures. We will discuss how lifelong romantic love can prevail over all circumstances and reveal the deepest mysteries of personal and cosmic creativity.

May 7 What about Psychedelics? Psychedelic peak experiences and the challenges of their integration into daily life and how the Psychedelic Sixties shaped fundamental Transpersonal Psychology concerns such as spiritual bypass, disengaged and engaged spirituality, and spirituality of the ordinary and the extraordinary.

May 14 Writing, Getting Published and Changing the World with Ideas.

Get support, answers to questions, and make contacts to help you get published. Contact Stuart Sovatsky stuartcs1@comcast.net

ATP NEWSLETTER



Conference Announcement

17TH INTERNATIONAL TRANSPERSONAL CONFERENCE

Consciousness Revolution: Transpersonal Discoveries That Are Changing the World

MOSCOW, JUNE 23–27, 2010

Inspired by the success of the 2008 First World Congress on Psychology and Spirituality in New Delhi and of the annual and multicultural conferences of the European Transpersonal Association (EUROTAS), a group of psychologists sharing the transpersonal vision has decided to continue the tradition of the international transpersonal meetings. This group representing the major American, European, Australian, and Asian transpersonal institutions decided to hold the 17th International Conference on June 23–27, 2010, in Moscow.

The mission of the Conference is to present, both experientially and didactically, breakthrough discoveries revealing the fundamental role of consciousness in all human affairs and the value for humanity of our growing insights into the nature of consciousness and of the world. We want to review the role the transpersonal perspective has played in human history from the time of the first shamans 50,000 years ago to the discoveries of modern consciousness research, transpersonal psychology, and other scientific disciplines. The Conference will present not only a comprehensive overview of the forty years of the transpersonal paradigm through the voices of its founders and pioneers, but also outline its future perspectives. We expect more than 1,000 participants from more than 50 countries.

Cultural Program: World Festival

of Transpersonal and Spiritual Arts, post-Conference Journeys in Russia
Presenters: 64, including Stanislav and Christina Grof

Visit: <http://www.ita2010.com>

Inquiries: itasecretary@gmail.com

Conference Announcement

Kundalini Research Network Presents Perspectives on Kundalini: Clinical, Research, and Traditional Views MAY 14–16, PENNSYLVANIA

This conference will offer participants and instructors the rare opportunity to gather and discuss the powerful impact that yoga and meditation practices, spiritual emergence, transcendent experiences, and the transformative power of Kundalini have on individuals. Through keynote presentations and panels of experts, we will explore what the process of transformation and change looks like from clinical, research, and traditional spiritual and yogic perspectives.

Friday 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. – noon

Presenters: Pandit Rajmani Tigonait, Lawrence Edwards, Teri Degler, Sat Bir Singh Khalsa, Russel Park, Dale Pond, Paul Pond, Dorothy Walters, Jyoti Jean Prevatt, Barbara Harris Whitfield, Charles L. Whitfield.

Registration Fee: \$150

Register on or before March 15, 2010, for only \$125!

Contact: Kundalini Research Network Conference: Himalayan Institute, Honesdale, Pennsylvania, (800) 822-4547; <http://www.himalayaninstitute.org>

Conference Announcement

PSYCHEDELIC STUDIES

SAN JOSE, APRIL 15–18

This spring the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) is hosting the international conference **Psychedelic Science in the 21st Century**.

Conference presenters will address contemporary psychedelic research and psychedelic psychotherapy topics at the largest conference dedicated solely to psychedelics in the U.S. in 17 years. Programming will consist of concurrent tracks exploring clinical applications, neurobiology, issues relevant to healthcare and mental health professionals, and social, cultural, and psychological issues surrounding the therapeutic and spiritual uses of psychedelics. Continuing education credits are available for psychologists, medical doctors, and other healthcare professionals. The conference is open to the general public.

World-renowned presenters include:

- **Stanislav Grof**, M.D., co-founder of transpersonal psychology
- **Ralph Metzner**, Ph.D., consciousness researcher & psychotherapist
- **Andrew Weil**, M.D., integrative medicine proponent
- **Jim Fadiman**, Ph.D., psychologist and pioneering psychedelic researcher
- **David Nichols**, Ph.D., medicinal chemist and pharmacologist
- **Alex & Allyson Grey**, visionary artists
- **Rick Doblin**, Ph.D., founder and executive director of MAPS

A special banquet will honor the lifetime achievements of psychedelic luminaries **Sasha and Ann Shulgin**.

Register before Mar. 15 to avoid the late rate. (831) 429-6362; <http://www.maps.org/conference>



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