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SPECIAL ISSUE

*Understanding Consciousness:
Wellbeing, Emotions and Conflict*

*Edited by
Tina Lindhard and Venkat Pulla*



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International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice

This journal will resonate the themes of resilience and hope. Practitioners and academia will take the opportunity to present reflective thinking, innovations and advance a community of practice that features strengths based practices and narratives and research that informs, educates and celebrates the infinitesimal capacity of human coping, resilience and hope. Writings that are refreshingly new that celebrate ethical conduct, practice of human values, eco-social justice international security and peace and those that advance non-violent development alternatives in governance of our societies will be welcomed.

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Special issue Guidelines for International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice

The aim of publishing special issues such as April, 2014 on Poverty and Human Rights In Asia, and the current one on Community Empowerment, Coping, Resilience and Hope is to provide a themed opportunity for the researchers from all over the world to share their valuable work and will contribute to the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Preparation for Special Issues: Proposals for Special Issues should include the following:(1) A concise and informative title for the special issue (no more than 25 words);(2) A description of the aims and scope for the special issue;(3) A brief editorial statement for the special issue;(4) A list of the guest editors including their names, emails, affiliations;(5) Suggested timeline for the special issue (submission deadline, review process, publication date etc.).The Call for Papers for an approved special issue will be posted online once everything has been confirmed.

Main Responsibilities of Guest Editors: Allocate newly submitted papers to reviewers; Record status of all papers including acceptance/rejection/ revision and resubmission.

Main Responsibilities of Lead Guest Editor: Maintain the communication and coordination between the special issue editorial team and the Editor in Chief Dr Venkat Pulla and the Managing Editor Kevin Nelson, Finalize the Call for Papers and ensuring that all deadlines related with the publication of the special issue are followed.

Expression of your Interest:

There is no special format for this. Please use the preparatory guidelines as above and write to the Editor in Chief, Dr Venkat Pulla. vpulla@csu.edu.au; de.venkat.pulla@gmail.com

Preface

Understanding Consciousness: Wellbeing, Emotions and Conflict

Tina Lindhard¹, Venkat Pulla²

¹International University of Professional Studies (IUPS), Maui, Hawaii, USA
consol.tina@gmail.com

²Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Land, Water and Society, ILWS, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia
vpulla@csu.edu.au; dr.venkat.pulla@gmail.com

The papers in this special edition are based in the XLIII CICA International/CCA Global conference that was held in Mysore, India 9-10 January 2018. Although the term *consciousness* is certainly the "buzz word" these days (Arka, 2018), in the West the study of consciousness is still in its infancy with very little agreement on what consciousness is or involves. For this reason the organizers of the conference held in Mysore decided to bring Western and Eastern scholars together to discuss the topic and to present their diverse views on *Understanding Consciousness: Wellbeing, Emotions and Conflict*. No definition of consciousness was supplied so each participant was able to consider the topic according to his or her own background and specialty. The articles presented in this special edition consist of some of the papers presented and are directed at throwing light on various aspects embraced by the title of the conference.

The first article involves a novel scientific investigation where phenomenological experiences are quantified in a study concerning the scientific testing of the third level of Arka's (2013) theory of the Six Main Levels of Consciousness. Lindhard's aim here is to find out what happened to the quality of the participants' consciousness after receiving five sessions (13.5 hrs.) of the Intuitive Meditation method spread over six weeks. The study is based on a pre-post test design.

Raghu in her article explores the effect of sound vibration on consciousness. Among other things, she explains the meaning of various musical terms such as tone, musical notes, timbre, pitch, scale, interval and Chromatic Scale. She also talks about consciousness and awareness and how Conscious Awareness is awareness with full involvement of the heart.

Honeycutt approaches the topic from the Anthropological point of view. Although American Indians did not vocalize their spirituality in the same way as the Indian tradition, their stories bear witness to their inherent comprehension regarding the spiritual nature of the Universe in spite of the fact they did not use the term *consciousness*.

Pulla and Salagame point out that Well-being is a multifaceted construct that endeavours to provide an explanation to the length and breadth of human experience. Their paper has three objectives: to explore how people perceive various positive constructs, the meaning of certain traditional Indian concepts and the meaning making of these concepts to cancer patients.

Arka's article helps Westerners understand more about the Indian Spiritual tradition and looks at what is involved in "ultimate wellbeing" based on Ancient Indian Spiritual texts including that of the Bagavad- Gita.

We would like to thank the International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practices for publishing this Special Edition on Understanding Consciousness and we hope these five articles help readers to better understand the concept consciousness and what is involved under this umbrella term.

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