38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 22-25, 2018
PALO ALTO, CA

SOFIA UNIVERSITY

altered states, sound, and healing
PRESIDENT  BRYAN RILL

BETH SAVAGE  SECRETARY/ TREASURER

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR  SEAN HINTON

ANTHROPOLOGY OF CONSCIOUSNESS EDITORS

nicole torres  gary moore

LOCATION

The conference will be held at Sofia University, 1069 E Meadow Cir,
Palo Alto, CA 94303

All panels will be in the main hall room/ hall, which can be found at
conference center.

Dinah’s Hotel is our designated conference hotel, with two restaurants
on site for evening gatherings and group dialogues.
Greetings and welcome to the 38th Annual Spring Conference of the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness (SAC). I am extremely pleased by your participation in what is most assuredly going to be an informative and inspiring gathering.

The Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness is an inter and transdisciplinary organization dedicated to the study of consciousness phenomena in cultures around the world. We reflect on how consciousness and human transformation can be made relevant to the challenges of our age.

The SAC community is inclusive, integrating cross-cultural, experimental, experiential, and theoretical approaches to consciousness. Our community of practice is unique in that many members are also practitioners, resulting in a deep pool of tacit, pragmatic wisdom to share. Our guests and participants this year include scholars, artists, students and performers. We are honored to have Dr. Jeffery Martin as our keynote speaker this year.

Many dedicated people have come together to make this conference possible. I wish to acknowledge program and site coordinator Sean Hinton for the long hours of work in organizing this year's conference. I also extend my gratitude to the board members of SAC for their service and support, especially in this time of organizational renewal.

We invite you to forge new connections, new collaborative efforts, and new friendships over these next days. If you are new to SAC, please consider becoming a member. If you are already a member, thank you. Consider increasing your involvement with SAC as we continue to explore the ways in which consciousness and human transformation can assist in meeting the many challenges of our age.

On behalf of the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness I welcome you and look forward to meeting and reconnecting with all of you!

Sincerely,

Bryan Rill
President
Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness
Dr. Jeffery A. Martin is a founder of the Transformative Technology space, serial entrepreneur and social scientist who researches personal transformation and the states of greatest human well-being. He spent the last 10 years conducting the largest international study on persistent non-symbolic experience (PNSE), which includes the types of consciousness commonly known as: enlightenment, nonduality, the peace that passeth understanding, unitive experience, and hundreds of others. More recently, he has used this research to make systems available to help people obtain profound psychological benefits in a rapid, secular, reliable, and safe way.

The Finders Course facilitates the remarkable wellbeing and other profound psychological benefits that have been historically associated primarily with states such as enlightenment, persistent mystical states, and nonduality – without it taking years and having to follow religious or spiritual dogma.

The Finders Course is the first universally effective course that helps people transition to Ongoing and Persistent Non-Symbolic Experience rapidly, safely, and reliably. The course is 100% secular and built on data from the world’s largest scientific research project in this area, which included over 1,200 participants on 6 continents. Our research showed that using the Finders Course, 73% of people got there in 4 months or less. And, only 1% of people who took the program failed to experience it at all.

Through the Finders Course, we provide the most effective technologies for creating permanent positive shifts in peace of mind, mental balance, life satisfaction and happiness. From ancient practices to cutting edge science, our programs help you to assemble a personalized program to reach your goals. In our courses, online platforms and mobile tools, you’ll find a community of like minded adventurers on the same journey.
CONFERENCE PROGRAM
THURSDAY, MARCH 22

12:00 PM  Registration Opens

1:00-2:00  Opening Ceremonies and Welcome

  1:00- 1:30  Welcome: Sean Hinton & Bryan Rill

  1:30-2:00  KHALSA: Gong meditation and Sound healing using Tibetan bowls
             Karambir Singh, Sofia University

2:00- 2:15  BREAK

2:15 - 3:30  Workshop

            Nancy Grace: Dreamwork of Jeremy Taylor and Montague Ullman

3:45-5:00  Challenges to the Status Quo

            Session Chair: Marilyn Schlitz

Ismail L. Ali, JD, MAPS Policy & Advocacy Counsel: Psychedelic consciousness as crucial piece of culturally challenging oppression in all of its forms

Schlitz, Marilyn, Sofia University: The Nature of Truth Construction in Science: The Case of Parapsychology and the Skeptic/Proponent Debate

Sascha Goluboff, Washington and Lee University: Writing as Healing: Altered States of Consciousness at the Crossroads between Ethnography and Fiction

5:00-5:15  BREAK

5:15 – 6:15  Roundtable Dialogue: Rejuvenation in a time of crisis

Community sharing of restorative practices. All are welcome.

MAPS
MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHEDELIC STUDIES
FRIDAY, MARCH 23

8:30- 9:00 Coffee & Tea Social

9:00- 10:30 Tricksters and Healing
Session Chair: Bryan Rill

Denise Lombardi, Université de Lorraine (France): Walking in the footsteps of the inner animal during a contemporary shamanic practice in Europe

Joshesph Zamaria: Positive and persisting after effects related to the consumption of psilocybin may be useful for psychological healing and growth

Kaitlyn Gardner, Washington and Lee University: Americanized production of modern mythology through the lens of suicide a modern trickster myth

Abou Farman Farmaian, New School for Social Research: Synaesthetics is a way of talking about senses that exceed the senses

10:30 - 10:45 BREAK

10:45 – 12:15 Cultural Views: South American Perspective of Psychedelics
Session Chair: Paola Andrea Sanchez Castañeda

Fernando José Ciello: Of spirits, mediums, energies, and meanings: studying mental health in Southern Brazil

Paola Andrea Sanchez Castañeda: Ethnogenesis communal healing in the re-indigenization process of the Muisca community from Bogota, Colombia

Alfonso Matas: Nature or Culture; Santo Daime’s Ritual Preparation of Ayahuasca

12:15 - 1:45 LUNCH
### FRIDAY, MARCH 23

**1:45 – 3:15**  
**Cultural Disposition and Science of Psychedelics**  
Session Chair: Richard Knowles

- **Richard Knowles, Sophia University:** *Microdosing Practices Amongst Indigenous Peoples East and West*
- **Joshua Falcon, Florida International University:** *Entheogenic the potential cultural influence and new ethical dispositions based on the experience of interconnection*
- **Jordon Shoshower, Yale University:** *Confronting science and psychedelics: an anthropological account of modern psychedelic research design*

**3:15- 4:00**  
**Traditional Healing in Western Cultures**  
Session Chair: Patricia Savant

- **Rosie Lynch:** *The transnational community of Ashtanga Yoga practitioners issues of authority and tradition*
- **Patricia Savant:** *Shamandome, Shamanic interventions in healing emotional, psychological and physical distress*
- **Scott Teitsworth:** *Krishna in the Sky with Diamonds: The Bhagavad Gita's guided psychedelic (soma) trip.*
- **Brian Landrum:** *LLMSW community based Auricular Acupuncture and didgeridoo sound therapy*

**4:00 – 4:15**  
**BREAK**

**4:15**  
**Experiential Workshop**

- **Richard Knowles, Sofia University:** *Shinto chanting and music that is specially mixed to have different effects on consciousness*

**6:00**  
**SAC Business Meeting**

Open meeting to meet the Board, ask questions and learn about SAC. All are welcome.
**SATURDAY, MARCH 24**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00</td>
<td>Coffee &amp; Tea Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Visioning Circle: Part I</td>
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<td><em>A co-creative re-visioning of SAC. All are welcome.</em> Facilitated by Bryan Rill</td>
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<td>10:00-10:15</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>10:15-12:15</td>
<td>Film: Michaela Koller</td>
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<td><em>Descending With Angels</em> by Christian Suhr, 2013</td>
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<td>The crossroads of Muslim exorcism and psychiatric medicine, comparing two systems which share a view of healing as faith in an external non-human agency—God or biomedicine</td>
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<td>12:00-12:30</td>
<td>El Sayed ei-Aswad: Spirits and Bodies: Transformative Power of Healing</td>
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<td>Rituals in Muslim Societies</td>
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<td>12:30-2:00</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>2:00-3:30</td>
<td>Invited Panel: Comparing spiritual adepts: anomalous religious experience across Thailand, China, Ghana and the US.</td>
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<td>Session Chair: Josh Brahinsky</td>
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<td>Felicity Aulino</td>
<td>Stanford University Anthropology</td>
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<td>John Dulin</td>
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<td>Emily Ng</td>
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<td>Rachel E. Smith</td>
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<td>3:30-3:45</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>3:45-4:45</td>
<td>Invited Panel: Transpersonal Approaches to Aging and Dying</td>
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<td>Session Chair: Sean Hinton</td>
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<td>Marilyn Schlitz, Sofia University:</td>
<td>A Naturalistic Approach to Grateful Aging</td>
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<td>Dorote Lucci, Sofia University:</td>
<td>Reducing Death Anxiety through VR</td>
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<td>Sean Hinton:</td>
<td>Transpersonal, Psychedelic Perspectives, in America About Death</td>
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SATURDAY, MARCH 24

5:00 – 6:00  Wisdom Council: Entheogens Q&A
Open sharing of SAC wisdom around the topic of entheogens. All are welcome to bring questions for the council.

5:00 – 6:00  Visioning Circle: Part II
Continuing the dialogue on our future from 5:00 into dinner at Dinah’s Hotel. For those interested in being part of SAC’s future and leadership.

6:00 - 7:30  Dinner and Leisure time to network

7:30 PM  KEYNOTE
Jeffery Martin, Sofia University: The Finders Course

8:30  CLOSING PARTY
An evening of celebration. Location to be announced at conference.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

9:00 AM  Action Planning Council
Volunteer attendance for those interested in being the change. Facilitated by Bryan Rill

Have a Safe Journey Home!