

Editor's Foreword

Near-death experiencers (NDErs) frequently report that in their experiences (NDEs), they met deceased loved ones—typically in joyful reunion. This phenomenon of after-death communication (ADC) also occurs outside the context of NDEs. Prior to the 21st century, researchers had conducted several studies of ADC, but their populations and methodologies were so diverse that they understandably found quite varied results, making it difficult for anyone to draw general conclusions about ADC phenomena. To address this conundrum, Jenny Streit-Horn conducted her doctoral dissertation research by executing a systematic review of all published ADC research from the first study she found in 1894 through 2010. She and her co-authors, I and Julia E. Smith, PhD, report the results of her 2011 study that, even now, a decade later, continue to provide the only data of their kind: empirically-based estimates of ADC phenomena—including incidence, prevalence, features, and characteristics of experiencers. The article concludes with the culmination of Streit-Horn's research: the weblink to an *ADC Fact Sheet* free for anyone to use in healthcare and educational settings.

One focus of NDE research has been healthcare providers' knowledge and attitudes about NDEs—important because uninformed and/or negatively inclined providers are likely at greater risk to do psychospiritual harm to NDErs who confide in them. Most of this research has focused on US healthcare providers. In the second article of this issue, Natasha A. Tassell-Matamua, PhD; Nicole Lindsay, PhD; and Jonathan P. Winterbottom, PhD, present the results of their study in which they extended the focus to psychologists in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Their results indicate an ongoing need for accurate and up-to-date NDE information in providers' training and continuing education programs.

This issue continues with two book reviews. In the first, University of the Cumberland's doctoral student Norman Klaunig, MA, MBA, NCC, LPC Associate (TX), reviews Jens Amberts's book *Why an After-life Obviously Exists: A Thought Experiment and Realer Than Real Near-Death Experiences*. Klaunig concludes that Amberts delivered on the promise of the book title and, with some minor reservations,

recommends it especially to open-minded seekers not yet certain of an afterlife. In the second book review, Dan Punzak, BS, PE, answers the novel question, “What do NDEs and mushrooms have in common?” with his review of Merlin Sheldrake’s book *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Future*. Punzak argues that the interconnectedness of life forms that Sheldrake so artfully explained in his book corresponds to the interconnectedness of the cosmos that NDErs so frequently report having experienced in their NDEs.

This issue concludes with two Letters to the Editor. In the first Letter, Anabela Cardoso, Lic. in Germanic Philology (Master’s degree), DPS (Honoris Causa), apprises readers of her body of work that may be of interest to them—on the topic of investigations into instrumental transcommunication, in which the deceased apparently communicate with the living through electronic means. In the second Letter, Don Cozzette provides intriguing evidence that famous Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky may have had an NDE.

I hope that readers find the diverse material of this issue both interesting and informative.

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