

**Phil Borges** graduated from University of California Medical Center as a Regents Scholar in 1969, and was honored with their prestigious University of California Medal in 2004. Phil has been documenting indigenous and tribal cultures for nearly three decades. His work is exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide and his award-winning books include *Tibetan Portrait*; *Enduring Spirit*; *Women Empowered* and *Tibet: Culture on the Edge*.

**Fritjof Capra, PhD**, physicist and systems theorist, is a founding director of the Center for Ecoliteracy in Berkeley, CA. He serves on the faculty of the Amana-Key executive education program in Sao Paulo, Brazil, is a Fellow of Schumacher College (U.K.), and serves on the Council of Earth Charter International. Dr. Capra is the author of several international bestsellers, including *The Tao of Physics* (1975), *The Web of Life* (1996), and *The Science of Leonardo* (2007). He is coauthor, with Pier Luigi Luisi, of the multidisciplinary textbook, *The Systems View of Life* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). His new online course ([www.capracourse.net](http://www.capracourse.net)) is based on his textbook. He lives in Berkeley, CA.

**Michael Cornwall, PhD, LMFT** has done therapy with people in extreme states since 1980 in medication-free sanctuaries and community settings. He completed his doctoral research on the Jungian sanctuary, *Diabasis*, and leads Esalen workshops and conferences on extreme states. He blogs on [www.madinamerica.com](http://www.madinamerica.com).

**Jasin Deegan** is a Master Shamanic Breathwork Facilitator and a Shamanic Minister, certified and ordained through Venus Rising Association for Transformation. He lives in Vallejo, CA.

**Nita Gage, DSPS**, trained with R.D. Laing and his associates at the Philadelphia Association from 1974-1980. She left London and returned to America in 1980 and pursued post-graduate education in psychology and psycho spiritual studies. She trained and studied with shamanic teachers and specializes in integrative psycho spiritual healing. Nita is co-founder of the NeuroImaginal™ Institute, [www.neuroimaginalinstitute.com](http://www.neuroimaginalinstitute.com); Director of Healer Within Retreats, [www.healerwithinretreats.com](http://www.healerwithinretreats.com), teaching medical and addiction professionals NeuroImaginal Practices for health and well being. She is the author (with Linda Star Wolf) of *Soul Whispering: The Art of Awakening Shamanic Consciousness*, and lives in Vallejo, California.

**Rebecca Esho Greenslade** is a psychotherapist and writer based in London. She currently works in private practice and as a training and research supervisor at The Minster Centre. She is Founder and Director of Gaia Therapy Project, a community-based psychotherapy practice at Hackney City Farm in East London. She is currently undertaking doctoral research with the Dept. of Psychological Services at Birkbeck University and is a Zen practitioner.

**Will Hall, MA, Dipl.PW**, works as a therapist, teacher and community development organizer, including Freedom Center, Portland Hearing Voices, The Icarus Project, Madness Radio, the Harm Reduction Guide to Coming off Psychiatric Drugs (translated into 10 languages), Valley Free Radio, 2 year certification in Open Dialogue with Mary Olson, Jaakko Seikkula and colleagues, more than 12 years of support group facilitation, and a private practice with individuals and families. A meditator and yoga practitioner

**Michelle Anne Hobart**, is a practitioner of energy medicine and holistic health educator. She holds a BS in Biology and an MA in Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness. Currently, she is doing coursework in Integral Counseling Psychology at California Institute of Integral Studies. Michelle is an advocate for the Neurodiversity movement and a certified Spiritual Emergence Coach.

**Eddie Irwin**, co-editor of Akong Tulku Rinpoche's *Taming the Tiger* (Rider) and is the author of *Healing Relaxation* (Rider); both are available online. Eddie studied with R. D. Laing in India and London in the 1970s and since 1980 has worked under the guidance of Akong Tulku Rinpoche. She is currently a member of the Tara Rokpa Therapy Training faculty and practices psychotherapy in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Douglas Kirsner, PhD**, holds a Chair in Philosophy and Psychoanalytic Studies at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of *The Schizoid World of Jean-Paul Sartre and R. D. Laing* (2003), and *Unfree Associations: Inside Psychoanalytic Institutes* (2009). He lived in one of the post-Kingsley Hall, Philadelphia Association households during the 1970s and has retained a special research interest in Laing's work. His 1980 interview with Laing has recently been published in *The Psychoanalytic Review* (April, 2013). He lives in Melbourne, Australia.

**Chuck Knapp**, a student of Chogyam Trungpa and graduate of Naropa University, worked closely with Ed Podvoll, founder of Windhorse, for many years. He was a founding member and Director of Friendship House, a residential treatment home for people suffering extreme mental states, and co-founded Windhorse Community Services in Boulder, Colorado, where he has served as a Co-Director, and is currently in charge of marketing.

**Heather LaFace, PhD** is on the adjunct faculty at Antioch University Santa Barbara as well as at Pacific Graduate Institute. She is in private practice in Los Angeles and Orange County where she works within a framework of attachment and relational theory. Her current writing and research interests explore paradigm-shifting connections between neuroscience, philosophy, and social theory, with a special interest in approaching extreme states from a developmental systems orientation. She lives in Los Angeles.

**James Norwood** is a doctoral candidate at the California Institute for Integral Studies, in the PsyD program in Clinical Psychology. James has been studying treatment of extreme states with Gnosis Retreat Center since its founding, and is committed to its mission to provide residential respite for those in crisis.

**Astrea Issler Ribeiro** is a psychoanalyst in Sao Paulo, Brazil and in addition to her private practice conducts spontaneous outdoor sessions there with street people. She is also an artist and philosopher.

**Sanford Rosenberg, PhD**, is President of Media Research Associates, and has thirty-five years of experience in Media Psychology. He is a clinician, executive coach, educator, and consultant on media projects including movies, games, and the web, applying the methods of dream psychology and personal mythology to media. Dr. Rosenberg specializes in qualitative knowledge-based research and clinical applications, examining the relationship between language, story, structure, symbol, image, emotion, and experience.

**Rinat Tal, MD**, is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist in private practice in Los Angeles. Her work focuses on minimizing medication management with clients with various conditions, including extreme states, incorporating a variety of influences that focus on the transformative aspects of the client-practitioner relationship. She has an abiding interest in alternatives to conventional psychiatry.

**Michael Guy Thompson, PhD**, received his psychoanalytic training from R. D. Laing and associates at the Philadelphia Association in London, and served as the organization's administrator from 1973-1980. He is Personal and Supervising Analyst and Faculty Member, Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California, San Francisco, and has been on the faculty of numerous graduate programs. He is the author of more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, reviews, and five books, *The Death of Desire: A Study in Psychopathology* (1985), *The Truth About Freud's Technique* (1994), *The Ethic of Honesty* (2004), *The Legacy of R. D. Laing: An Appraisal of His Contemporary Relevance* (2015), and most recently, *The Death of Desire: An Existential Study in Sanity and Madness* (2016), an extensively revised and expanded edition of the original, published by Routledge. Michael is founder and director of Gnosis Retreat Center, a refuge for people in crisis, modeled on his work with R. D. Laing in London, and is principal organizer of these Laing Esalen workshops. His current project is a book on *The Enigma of Happiness*.

**Connor Tindall** is a doctoral candidate at the California Institute for Integral Studies, in the PsyD program in Clinical Psychology. Connor has been studying treatment of extreme states with Gnosis Retreat Center since its founding, and is committed to its mission to provide residential respite for those in crisis.

**Andrew Turkington, RN, LMFT** is a psychotherapist in Oakland and an Associate Professor of Psychiatric Nursing at Unitek College, Fremont, California. He trained as a psychiatric nurse in the United Kingdom and as a therapist with Michael Guy Thompson and Associates at Free Association, San Francisco. His interests include skepticism, phenomenology, and Tai Chi.

**Dina Tyler** is a psychiatric survivor, trainer and consultant. She works in private practice as a wellness coach and counselor for Big Picture Wellness, a coordinated team of practitioners providing holistic alternatives for people experiencing extreme states. Dina is the Co-Founder, and former Board Member and facilitator of the Bay Area Hearing Voices Network. She was awarded the prestigious Peer Specialist of the Year by the National Council for Behavioral Health in 2015.

**Scott Von, OMD PhD**, is a physician, psychoanalyst, philosopher, poet, and artist. He is Director of the New Clinic for Integral Medicine & Psychiatry ([newclinic.org](http://newclinic.org)) and Director of Analytica psychoanalytic institute ([analytica.org](http://analytica.org)), both based in New York and Los Angeles. He completed his Doctor of Medicine specializing in Neuropsychiatry at ACTCM-Shanghai University and his PhD in Psychoanalysis at LSE-University of London, and served as a professor and supervisor at NYU, CUNY, CIIS, and Pacific College. He is author of the four-volume book and multi-modal artwork *Autopoiesis* which he has exhibited and performed internationally, and author of the clinical books *Schizoanalysis: Chaos & Complexity in Clinical Practice* and *Orgonomy: Integral Medicine & Psychiatry*. ([drscottvon.com](http://drscottvon.com))