

## INTENTIONAL TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES



According to a long-standing belief, exceptional life-changing experiences are beyond the individual's control—they 'simply happen.' However, individuals actively search for transformative experiences, inducing consciousness-alterations through practices and reflecting critically on the long process as 'experientialist philosophers.' The conference will devote itself primarily on theoretical questions involving these intentional practices that result in actively induced experiential states. As such, the aim is to add to our understanding of intentional transformative experiences.



- ◆ For this conference, digital participation is possible through Zoom
- ◆ For the link, registration is requested by 27th of August 2021 — contact [sarah.perez@relwi.unibe.ch](mailto:sarah.perez@relwi.unibe.ch)
- ◆ For organizational matters, contact [bastiaan.vanrijn@relwi.unibe.ch](mailto:bastiaan.vanrijn@relwi.unibe.ch) or [jens.schlieter@relwi.unibe.ch](mailto:jens.schlieter@relwi.unibe.ch)



# INTENTIONAL TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES

## THEORIZING SELF-CULTIVATION IN RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

Hybrid Conference

Institute for the Science of Religion

University of Bern  
Lerchenweg 36  
3012 Bern — Switzerland







## Program

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Saturday, 28.08. 2021

University of Bern, vonRoll Building, Fabrikstrasse 6, Room 003

14:00-14:30 *Opening*

14:30-15:45 **Wouter Hanegraaff**: Noetic Enlightenment and Rebirth in Hermetic Spirituality

15:45-16:45 **Bas Jacobs**: Historicizing Transformative Experience: A Perspective from the History of Religions

16:45-18:00 **Flavio Geisshüsler**: Clothed in Nakedness: Direct Transcendence Meditation and the Contemplative Experimentation with Consciousness

*Evening Lecture*

21:00-22:15 **Jeffrey Kripal**: The Superhumanities: Why Anomalous and Extreme Experiences Are Central to the Humanist Canon

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Sunday, 29.08. 2021

University of Bern, Lerchenweg 36, Room F021

09:00-10:15 **Kevin Schilbrack**: Training for Revelation

10:15-11:30 **Keith Edward Cantú**: "A Ridiculous Story": Sri Sabhapati Swami's Flight to the Celestial Mountain

11:30-12:45 **Karl Baier**: Ritualised Meditation as a Runway for Unpredictable Transformative Experiences. The Case of C. G. Jung's Active Meditation

12:45-13:45 *Lunch Break*



13:45-14:45 **Leon Krings**: Embodiment in Japanese Kata-Training: Towards a Self-Transformational Phenomenology of Self-Transformation

14:45-16:00 **Marcus Schmücker**: The Progress of Time and Transformative Experience in Indian Philosophical and Theological Traditions

16:00-16:15 *Coffee Break*

16:15-17:30 **Maddalena Canna**: Self-Transformation, Disruption and Paradox in Religious Experience. Suggestions from Vedanta Yoga

17:30-18:45 **Markus Schrenk**: The Transformative Potential of Proprioceptive Art: Practices of Meditation, Awareness, and Spiritual Yoga

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Sunday, 29.08. 2021

*Evening Lecture*

18:45-20:00 **Laurie Paul**: Fear and Transformative Religious Experience

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Monday, 30.08. 2021

University of Bern, Lerchenweg 36, Room F021

09:00-10:00 **Magdalena Kraler**: Modern Yogic Breath Cultivation as Self-Cultivation and Foucault's Technologies of the Self

10:00-11:00 **Bastiaan van Rijn**: Spiritual Animal Magnetism as a Science of Transformative Experiences: The Case Study of Louis-Alphonse Cahagnet

11:00-12:00 **Marleen Thaler**: Approaching a Universal Pattern? Gopi Krishna's Initial Kuṇḍalinī Rising.

12:00-13:00 *Lunch Break*

13:00-14:15 **Jens Schlieter**: Experimenting with Transformative Experiences and the Concept of "Religious Experience"

14:15-15:30 **Steven Sutcliffe**: 'Seekers after Truth': Search as Method in the Gurdjieff Movement

15:30-16:00 *Conclusion and Further Steps*

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