

# **EXPLORING THE POWERS**

*latent in Humankind*

**International  
Seminar**

**17-19 June 2022**

**Venue: Besant Hall,  
Meentweg 9, 1411 GR Naarden,  
the Netherlands**

## **Exploring the Powers Latent in Humankind**

**International Seminar, 17-19 June 2022**

**Research has shown that 51% of population in western countries have had exceptional experiences, such as clairvoyance, telepathy, lucid dreams, near-death experiences, contact with deceased and mystical or spiritual experiences.**

As exceptional as these experiences may be, from a sociological point of view they are quite normal. They are not only part of the postmodern world in which we live, but also of the Wisdom Traditions of all cultures. Investigating these experiences has been one of the objects of the Theosophical Society since its foundation in 1875. During a two-year programme of Seminars and Study Days, new insights in science, religion, philosophy and therapy are being presented. During Dutch language Study Days, a broad range of unusual experiences are being explored. The 2020 International Seminar aims to give an overview of several of the most important scientific developments in this field.

### **Exceptional Experiences**

Exceptional experiences may occur when the common limitations of time and space of the personality fall away, after which unknown territory is entered. As a result, enhanced ideas on humankind, life, psyche or cosmos can emerge at different levels. They can emerge spontaneously, or are the result of specific preparations, spiritual or otherwise. Often, they are an enrichment of the personal life, but can also be meaningless, sensational or frightening, thus even creating problems. Insight is required to be able to test, evaluate and integrate these experiences in the personal life. This insight is not only important for those undergoing these experiences, but certainly also for professional spiritual counsellors, psychiatrists and psychologists, being faced with related questions.

### **Exceptional Experiences and Latent powers**

Some experiences, such as clairvoyance, are the result of latent powers which can present themselves spontaneously. Other powers are being gradually developed. The Wisdom Traditions make clear that only those powers are wholesome which are the natural result of an inner transformation. This is a gradual process. Forcing of such is not advisable and can even be dangerous.

### **The Programme**

The International Seminar aims to inform and give an overview of several of the most important scientific developments that are placed in the rational structures of science and the Wisdom Traditions.

### **Theosophy Offers a Safe Environment to Investigate These Issues**

Theosophy, or Divine Wisdom, is hidden knowledge or knowledge of the hidden. Anything observed by the senses has also a hidden depth. The surface of subjects, their external horizon, is just the boundary. The development of spiritual intuition is necessary to achieve a synthesis between inner and outer. This requires a "safe container", concepts and environment, within which people can develop for themselves that synthesis.

### **Covid policy; registration is necessary**

We also want to create a safe environment for the health of our visitors. We will fully follow the policy of the Dutch government. As the situation continues to change, we may have to adjust our program. So please follow our site so that you can be informed in time. It also implies that it is necessary that you register through the separate form on [www.itcnaarden.org](http://www.itcnaarden.org), or [www.theosofie.nl](http://www.theosofie.nl)

## Exploring the Powers Latent in Humankind

International Seminar, 17-19 June 2022

### Friday June 17

**Afternoon: arrival**

18.00 **Dinner**

20.00 **Meeting in Besant Hall**

### Saturday June 18

9.30 **Coffee in Besant Hall**

10.00 **Opening**



10.10

#### Exploring the Powers Latent in Humankind

**Prof. dr. Hans Gerding** (philosopher, transpersonal psychologist, Institute for Philosophy, Leiden University & Institute for Parapsychology, Utrecht)

Introduction to the theme of this seminar. Latent abilities manifest themselves in a wide variety of extraordinary experiences. This is happening en masse in our Western society. These experiences often lie at the heart of our culture, in religion, philosophy, science and art. In addition, they can also be dangerous and ask for in-depth research.



10.20

#### Experience and Integration

**Tim Boyd** (President Theosophical Society)

Paranormal and mystical experiences are a natural occurrence among people. Because these experiences lie outside of what we accept as "normal", they can be unsettling, and exist as foreign bodies, fragmenting our sense of self. What is their role in unfoldment? And how can we integrate them into our consciousness?



11.15

#### Challenge to Mainstream Psychology: Integrating the Transpersonal

**Prof. em. dr. David Lukoff** (Sofia University (Formerly Institute of Transpersonal Psychology). Founder, Spiritual Competency Academy)

During its 50-year history, transpersonal psychology's challenging stance has kept it on the margins of academia. Yet this small movement has helped legitimate spiritual and exceptional experiences as important areas of inquiry in psychology. It has also pioneered the inclusion in therapy of a client's spiritual and exceptional experiences, strengths, and conflicts as well as altered state of consciousness experiences.

12.10 **Lunch. For Day visitors: bring your own sandwiches**



13.30

#### The Magic of Zarathustra's Eyes of the Heart

**Dr. Ann van Sevenant** (PhD Philosophy Brussels), is the author of "Thus Replied Zarathustra" (Mimesis International, 2020) and of twenty books on philosophy in Dutch, French, English, Italian. She taught Philosophy at the University College of Antwerp (Belgium), and she is an international guest speaker and independent researcher.

The Persian thinker Zarathustra highlighted the potential of the human mind and heart to connect to the inner space and cosmic universe. This latent capacity is activated by the "eyes of the heart" and transforms itself in an intuitive understanding. This process of growing interconnection between mental and bodily experiences allows us to develop our connectivity with the world and with others.



14.25

#### Exceptional powers and presences. Questions about their reality from an intercultural perspective

**Dr. Angela Roothaan** (VU Amsterdam, focuses in her research on African intercultural philosophy and spirit ontologies. Recent book: *Indigenous, Modern and Postcolonial Relations to Nature. Negotiating the Environment* (Routledge 2019).

Stories of exceptional powers and presences can be found in all cultures. These cultures however value them very differently – as subjective claims or as shared realities. Is it possible to gain a shared intercultural understanding of such powers and presences? How would such an understanding make us see ourselves: as rational animals, as spiritual beings, or a spirited animal?

15.15 **Tea break**



15.45

**Alterations of consciousness and expanded human capabilities. Fact and fiction**

**Etzel Cardeña** (Ph. D., holds the Thorsen Chair at Lund University. His research focuses on altered consciousness. His more than 400 publications include Varieties of Anomalous Experience and Altered Consciousness)

Altered consciousness has been linked to enhanced functioning. Some proposals lack empirical support, but others do. Studies on meditation, hypnosis, sensory homogenization, psychoactive drug ingestion, and spontaneous alterations of consciousness show their potential to enhance physiological (e.g., control of somatic systems) and psychological (e.g., perceptual sensitivity) functioning. Controlled parapsychological (psi) research also indicates that altered consciousness relates to psi functioning.

16.40 **Closing, possible with short forum**

18.00 **Dinner**

19.30

**Evening programme:  
"Nothing is Beautiful but the True"**



**Natalia Abdel Fattah** (Saint-Joseph University of Beirut, Ph. D. student, translator, French language and literature professor, painter)

"Nothing is Beautiful but the True," said Boileau, the French poet, and critic (1636-1771). Painting can be described as the quest for Beauty and Truth. It may be considered as an exceptional experience where inspiration, intuition, clairvoyance, ecstasy, and creation give access to "Presence".

**Sunday June 19**

9.30 **Coffee in Besant Hall**

10.00 **Opening**



10.10

**Spiritual Competence**

**Prof. em. dr. David Lukoff** (Sofia University (Formerly Institute of Transpersonal Psychology). Founder, Spiritual Competency Academy)

Research has established that for many people, spirituality is a strength and a resource for their wellness and recovery. Also, the evidence for the value of spiritually oriented interventions such as mindfulness and yoga has created an awareness of the need for therapists to provide more spiritually inclusive care to clients. How can therapists be prepared to develop a more compassionate and skillful place within themselves to provide spiritually competent care?



11.05

**A biophoton field may unite Western and Eastern medicine**

**Dr. Roeland Van Wijk** (studied biophysical chemistry and lectured molecular cell biology at Utrecht University. He founded MeLuNa Research BV to study the human biophoton field in health and disease).

Human ultra-weak photon emission can be studied after dark-adaptation utilizing a highly sensitive photomultiplier. The spontaneous emission of a human shows a common anatomic pattern. The lecture explains the origin of the light field and the characteristics of the "language" of the photon signal in relation to the Western biomedical knowledge as well as to traditional Eastern energy medicine.

12.00 **Lunch. For Day Visitors: bring your own sandwiches**



13.15

**Healing integration instead of exclusion in dealing with paranormal experiences - The work of the parapsychological counselling office.**

**Dr. rer. nat. Dr. phil. Walter von Lucadou** (Assistant-professor at the Institute of Physics (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg), Assistant-professor at the chair of "Psychology and border areas of psychology" at the University of Freiburg.; visiting professor at the Parapsychology Laboratory at the University of Utrecht. Since 1989 Director of the "Parapsychologische Beratungsstelle" (parapsychological counselling office) at Freiburg; Since 1998 Lecturer at the Technical

University, Furtwangen, Germany. Member of the „Institut für medizinische Ethik, Grundlagen und Methoden der Psychotherapie und Gesundheitskultur (IEPG) (Institute for Medical Ethics, Psychotherapy and Health Culture)“ at Mannheim, Germany).

In the case of exceptional experiences, the contradictions between alternative or holistic world views and the paradigms of conventional science become particularly apparent. Those affected experience and suffer this “first hand”. Without reconciliation of the world views (magical and scientific) and without mutual understanding, there is no end to uncertainty and suffering. The concepts of entanglement and embodiment may serve.



14.10

### Inspiration and original experience

**Dr Rico Sneller**, (has been teaching philosophy at the universities of Utrecht, Leiden, and Eindhoven. His research focuses on the philosophical reception of exceptional)

Inspiration is an original yet latent human experience.

It should be associated with what Plato describes as ‘Eros’. Philosophy and art are greatly determined by the original experience of inspiration or Eros. But what is this ‘Eros’? Is it a cosmic power which exclusively expresses itself in bodies? Or is it a purely spiritual power? Or (third possibility) does it make sense at all to distinguish here between ‘body’ and ‘spirit’ as separate entities?

15.05 **tea break**



15.25

### Spiritual Powers Latent in Humankind.

**Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu**, (post-graduate from Montpellier University (France) in Pharmaceutical Engineering. Chairperson of the Theosophical Society in Europe, gives programmes including spiritual silent retreats on the Ageless Wisdom in many countries, showing that spiritual life cannot be separated from ethical daily living and meditation).

A human being is part of the process of evolution, interacting with the whole Universe of which reflection on its manifested ‘side’, its ‘other side’, and its real structure will be exposed. The question of ‘matter’ and that of ‘space-time’ will be examined in relation with the powers latent in a human being and with ‘mind’ and meditation.

16.20 **Closing, possible with short forum**

**“As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality”. Albert Einstein**

### Registration

The number of places is limited. We therefore use the following registration procedure:

- Registration for the full seminar can only be done before June 1st.
- Reservation will only be made final after payment of the fee.
- Your reservation will then be confirmed.
- Cancellation before June 1st results in refund minus € 50.
- In case you intend to sleep at home but come every day, you need to register as well.

Separate registration form can be found on [www.itcnaarden.org](http://www.itcnaarden.org). Please fill in your application and sent to [activities@itc-naarden.org](mailto:activities@itc-naarden.org)

Entrance of the activities at Meentweg 9, 1411 GR Naarden. For route description please look at our site.

### Retreat Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu

Following the seminar an additional retreat is organized with Mrs. Tran-This Kim Diêu on Spiritual Powers Latent in Humankind. In case you like to stay the option is available on this registration form. You need to register for that seminar separately.

**Other related programs, for information see:** [www.ITC-naarden.org](http://www.ITC-naarden.org)

### Dutch Language Study Days:

1 October 2022

**The Supranatural Nature**

11 December 2022

**The mystical Death**

### International seminars:

20+21 June 2022

**Spiritual Powers Latent in Humankind** with Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu. See site [www.itc-naarden.org](http://www.itc-naarden.org) for special program.

7-12 October 2022

**European School of Theosophy**, see <https://europeanschooloftheosophy.eu/>



### **Three Objects of the Theosophical Society**

To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity,  
without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.

To encourage the study of Comparative Religion, Philosophy and Science.

To investigate unexplained laws of Nature and the Powers latent in Man.



### **Mission of the Theosophical Society**

To serve humanity by cultivating an ever-deepening understanding  
and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual Self-transformation,  
and the Unity of all Life.



### **The International Theosophical Centre**

The ITC aims to be an active and inspiring spiritual study and retreat centre,  
contributing to the service of the world and the uplifting of the consciousness of  
mankind in particular. The ITC therefore invites people at the Centre to work on  
the process of human regeneration through individual transformation.

Any stay at the Center is meant to promote quietness of mind, peace and a har-  
monious life. Therefore, smoking or using drugs on the estate is not allowed;  
furthermore, only vegetarian meals and non-alcoholic beverages  
may be consumed.



### **Programmes organised by:**

**International Theosophical Center Naarden,**

**the Netherlands [www.itcnaarden.org](http://www.itcnaarden.org)**

**Theosophical Society in the Netherlands [www.theosofie.nl](http://www.theosofie.nl)**

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