

Call for Papers

Soul, Spirit, and Consciousness in Psychology and Philosophy: Traditions, Current Views, Perspectives

A Special Issue of *European Psychologist*

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The threefold conceptualization of the human being as encompassing body, soul, and spirit has found widespread recognition amongst scholars throughout different epochs of human history. The domain of conscious experience – or consciousness – likewise plays a core role in this context. And yet, the understanding and differentiation of those dimensions has been quite controversial. And in more recent times the acknowledgement of a soul and spirit dimension, let alone a distinction between the two, has fallen into disrepute throughout the scholarly community – particularly in the natural sciences, but also in medicine, psychology, and in philosophy. At the same time, core issues remain unresolved, for instance the mind–body problem and the problem of phenomenal consciousness. The perspective we take on these issues bears significant consequences for many domains of life, including science and human self-understanding.

While academics often voice uneasiness with the idea of an immaterial form of existence of the soul and spirit, the theme has taken a prominent role in folk-psychology/folk-philosophy, for instance in the form of mainstream spirituality. To some extent, it has even re-entered academic dialogue through the backdoor, for instance, via the mindfulness debate or through research into different types of spirituality or meditative practice. That is why we think that it is important and timely to continue the dialogue on these issues on the open stage of science, especially on the background of a rich European tradition in this context. We are glad that the journal *European Psychologist* is ready to team up and provide a platform for this exchange.

In the current special issue, we hence look for contributions from psychology, philosophy, and related disciplines,

that address one or more of the following issues surrounding our core theme:

- How can we characterize and distinguish the concepts soul, spirit, and consciousness?
- What are appropriate methods to investigate consciousness and can (aspects of) soul and spirit be researched scientifically?
- How are these domains understood from a lay perspective or in pre-scientific forms of thinking?
- How does an understanding of soul, spirit, or consciousness vary across cultures and how has it evolved throughout the history of science?

We primarily welcome empirically-based contributions – but also theoretical and methodological ones, as well as opinion papers. Empirically-based contributions should be presented in a review (or meta-analytic) manner.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting full manuscripts is

December 31, 2019.

Manuscript Preparation and Submission

Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the journal's author guidelines available on the journal's website at

<http://www.hogrefe.com/j/ep>

All manuscripts should be submitted via the online submission system:

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/ep>

Should you have any technical queries regarding the submission portal, please contact production@hogrefe.com.

Only papers that have not previously appeared in or are currently under consideration for another publication can be considered for publication. Manuscripts are subject to peer review and may be returned to authors for revision.

Contact Details

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