

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Intended Audience: Researchers, Clinicians, Practitioners, General*

# Between Experience and Expectation

David B. Metcalfe

*Editor-in-Chief, Threshold*

Experience and expectation don't always coincide. We read a local news report and expect a rainy day, yet when we go out we experience sunshine as unforeseen changes alter the weather patterns. We lay down to sleep expecting a long morning commute to work, wake up with a head cold and decide to stay home. We can find similar examples in our own lives where this pattern holds true, and yet it is rare that we really consider how this common deviation between experience and expectation affects us in a deeper way.

What expectations, we might ask, do we have for what comes next after we pass on from this world? Where did these expectations come from? How different might these expectations be from the reality of what we will experience?

*Threshold: Journal of Interdisciplinary Consciousness Studies* offers an exciting opportunity to dive into these questions regarding death which are so important to our lives. Confirmed, direct experience of what happens as we pass on may remain out of reach for those of us on this side of the veil; however, we can explore analogous areas of experience and investigate what influences exist in our culture and in our personal lives that affect the expectations that we have. In doing so we can develop a better understanding and perhaps even better align our expectations to the surprising reality that awaits us.

When we pursue the lines of investigation offered by *Threshold's* contributors, whether in cross-cultural studies of apparitional encounters, inquiry into social rituals surrounding death, reports of near-death and out-

of-body experiences, or scientific analysis of mediumship and psychic functioning, we begin to realize that the question of our mortality is more than just what happens to us after death. What we are really asking is related to our experience of what we call ‘consciousness’ and, if we are honest, our question deals directly with what it means to be human.


Our humanity has been defined for us through so many disparate and often incompatible concepts and ideologies. The vast nature of who and what we are, something so apparent and obvious when we look at our place in the universe, has been obscured for us. There is an unknown realm which lies beyond death that speaks to us of how little we truly understand ourselves and our place in the world.

Any effort to illuminate this darkened path is sure to offer rich rewards, and as always, dear reader, as you enjoy this second issue we are thankful that you’ve chosen to join us on this exciting and unexpected journey.

### **About the Journal**

*Threshold: Journal of Interdisciplinary Consciousness Studies* (TJICS) is a free, online-only, open access journal that disseminates information focusing on interdisciplinary studies of consciousness as it relates to dying, death, and what comes next. Articles include original peer-reviewed research, review articles, research briefs, conference presentations, education and training aids, essays, editorials, case studies, and book reviews. Content is tailored to meet the needs of specific audiences including researchers, clinicians, practitioners, and the general public. For more information, visit: [www.tjics.org](http://www.tjics.org)

Content © 2017 The Author(s).

 Licensed for publication by Windbridge Research Center, Tucson, AZ. This manuscript is open access. It is distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. It may be shared, copied, and redistributed provided that appropriate credit is given (BY). It may not be used for commercial purposes (NC). No modifications or derivatives may be shared (ND). For full license details, see: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

