

Special Issue

The Philosophy of Mystical Experience

Message from the Guest Editor

In all times and cultures, humans have had experiences which are usually called 'mystical'. The philosophical study of these mystical experiences poses a lot of questions, such as those detailed subsequently. What *are* mystical experiences? Are they distinguished from other kinds of experiences by a certain kind of content, a specific state of consciousness, or something else entirely? Are there distinctive kinds of mystical experiences? If so, by which criteria can we classify them? Does the distinction between introvertive and extrovertive experiences make sense? Is there reason to believe that mystical experiences across times, cultures, and religions share a common core? If there is a common core, what does it consist of and what is its relevance for the possibility of religious pluralism? Are there any metaphysical implications which can be drawn from a universal core of mystical experiences? We invite methodologically thorough and conceptually clear contributions on any of these (or similar) questions, from all kinds of philosophical and religious backgrounds.

Guest Editor

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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