



# Existenz

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## EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

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Inspired by the 2013 centennial anniversary of Karl Jaspers' *General Psychopathology*, KJSNA has summoned relevant scholars to address issues and debates raised by empirical and interpretive psychiatry as well as psychotherapy. Mind reading and mental surveillance, neural alteration of morality and neuroethics, the medicalization of sexual orientation and human feelings, new understandings of vegetative consciousness, and the sociality of human consciousness are topics of major relevance today. Recent developments in neuroscience, for example the use of fMRI brain imaging techniques, pose ongoing questions about the relevance of Jaspers' *General Psychopathology* for contemporary developments in neuroscience, psychopathology, psychotherapy, and related disciplines.

In light of developments in neuroscience and the contemporary reception of the *General Psychopathology* a fresh look is given to psychobiological approaches, the hermeneutical limits of evidence-based medicine, and the role of *verstehen* in contemporary clinical and diagnostic and classificatory practices (*DSM-5*).

Volume 10/1 contains the first of two sets of essays to address these topics. Luca Lavagnino and Nils-Frederick Wagner revisit *erklären* and *verstehen* from a psychiatry perspective, while M. Ashraf Adeel and Andrew L. Gluck address these and related concepts from an epistemological perspective. Kalina J. Michalska reviews up-to-date neuroscience research about empathy and sympathy related to developmental disorders; in contrast, Elena Bezzubova questions the reliance on neuroscience for the treatment of mental disorder and favors existential phenomenology. Humanistic perspectives are explored also in the contributions of Alina N. Feld and Lydia Voronina. Tom Rockmore provides concluding remarks on the fecundity of these diverse perspectives in relation to Karl Jaspers.

The Editors,  
Alan M. Olson  
Helmut Wautischer

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of *Existenz* is to encourage research and publication on problems and topics consistent with the general overview of Karl Jaspers, namely, the history of philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism, and hermeneutics; psychology, philosophy of religion, politics, culture, and the arts. This journal serves as a publication outlet for various international Jaspers societies, including those in the United States, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, and Japan, and also considers direct submissions of articles for online publication. *Existenz* is indexed in *The Philosopher's Index*.

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