



# Existenz

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## EDITORS' INTRODUCTION



The focus of Volume 10/2 continues to be Karl Jaspers' *General Psychopathology*, now with emphasis on Jaspers' critique of psychoanalysis. Matthias Bormuth provides historical details on the development of Jaspers' understanding of psychoanalysis, particularly his relationship to Sigmund Freud and the influence of Max Weber. Bormuth is the director of the Karl Jaspers Haus in Oldenburg, Germany, and has agreed to a dialogue about his 2006 book, *Life Conduct in Modern Times: Karl Jaspers and Psychoanalysis*, with three scholars from related fields: Roger Frie, a clinical psychologist at Simon Fraser University, who explores details of Jaspers' reasons to reject developments in psychoanalysis due to political and historical events; John McCole, a historian at the University of Oregon, who shows the impact of historical events in shaping Jaspers' perception of Freud and post-Freudian developments in psychoanalysis; and Ed Mendelowitz, one of the leading contemporary practitioners of existential-humanistic psychotherapy, who brings a uniquely profound reading of Jaspers' existence-philosophical position in psychotherapy by showing its affinity with wisdom gained from deeply moving passages in the writings of visionary legends such as Bob Dylan or Franz Kafka.

The volume continues with a carefully crafted position statement by Stephen A. Erickson about qualitative transformations in humans that differ from mere transitions. Embedded in the Continental tradition, with particular focus on Hegel and Kant, Erickson carefully approaches a communicable form of spiritual existence that he calls "thresholding." Two Jaspers scholars from Italy contribute to the debate with focus on the subjective quality of human existence. Stefania Achella selects passages from Jaspers' *General Psychopathology* to approach the elusive demarcation between objective reality and subjective experience. Humanistic psychology can bring a unique understanding to the morphology of mental constructs. Anna Donise dissects Jaspers' use of empathy as the ability to transfer oneself into the other individual's state of experience. This unmediated direct experience of the other is for Jaspers a key element to advance psychopathology. In the concluding essay, Daniel Adsett finds compatibility between existential-phenomenological psychopathology and the current rise in technological approaches for addressing mental illness.

**Viewable on YouTube**

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*.

### Correspondence

Direct all correspondence to the editors as posted at [www.existenz.us/submissionguidelines.html](http://www.existenz.us/submissionguidelines.html)

