



# Existenz

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## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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*Perspectives on Japan, Existentiality, and Religion* is the first issue in a series of upcoming volumes that includes contributions presented at the Eighth International Jaspers Conference, held in conjunction with the XXIV World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing 2018. Two of the essays are by a former student of Karl Jaspers. Gerhard Knauss (Saarland University, Germany) describes the circumstances that led to his appointment at a renowned university in Japan due to the recommendation of his dissertation advisor Jaspers. In the second essay, Knauss provides a critical assessment of the logical feasibility of Jaspers' concept of the encompassing in light of the division between subject and object that, in Knauss' recollection, Jaspers had treated always as an indubitable fact. Endre Kiss (Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, Hungary) highlights three typological characteristics in Jaspers' philosophy: juxtaposing the philosophical creation of meaning to existentiality, a supportive relation between science and philosophy, and philosophical perspectivism. This broad range of philosophizing poses a serious challenge to find an adequate typological place for Jaspers' philosophy. Tomoko Iwasawa (Reitaku University at Chiba, Japan) discusses the etymology of Japanese terminology related to transcendence and applies it for interpreting an ancient sexennial Japanese ritual dating back to the fourteenth century and most recently had been celebrated in 2016. Iwasawa compares these Japanese concepts with core terminology related to Jaspers' philosophy and demonstrates similarities in them.

The Author Meets Critics session held at the 2018 APA Central Division meeting in Chicago was organized and chaired by Jill Graper Hernandez (University of Texas, San Antonio). A videotaped version of the session is at <https://youtu.be/7IG89Es2ZcY>. Noreen Khawaja (Yale University) responded to four critics of her book *The Religion of Existence* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). Three of the critics viewed the text from a Kierkegaardian perspective, Antony Aumann (Northern Michigan University), Dawn Eschenauer Chow (University of Chicago), and Ryan Kemp (Wheaton College), while Sara Shady (Bethel University) offered a broader existentialist interpretation of the book that is inclusive of Martin Buber and Karl Jaspers.

**Viewable on YouTube**

Helmut Wautischer  
Editor-in-Chief

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