

## Author Guidelines

We appreciate all article submissions and we are looking forward to welcome you as our new author. However, please be aware that, in order to keep our high standards, some requirements for your article are indispensable.

### Editorial Statement

The Journal for Spirituality and Transcendental Psychology (JSTP) has been founded to reflect a deep understanding of spirituality as an inner dimension of religious traditions based on learned discourse. Its main topics deal with the relationship between spiritual traditions, science and different international cultures, questions concerning the relationship between these spiritual traditions and the individual with their own spiritual dimension, and questions concerning the relevance of the transcendental experience for the individual and the confirmation of that relevance. It also covers all questions of intellectual and practical interest concerning the presence of spirituality and its history that demonstrate the continuing relevance of historical experiences today. The published articles should differ from other academic publications through their consistency with the axiom of transcendence, i.e. the published authors appreciate the existence and relevance of the transcendental dimension. The editors of the journal attempt to maintain a balance between different spiritual approaches and traditions, and also invite authors to respect different perspectives as well.

### Classification of an Article:

Articles should belong to one of the following categories:

#### 1. Science & Essay:

Articles in this category should be methodically and stylistically based on typical scientific standards of the humanities or arts.

#### 2. Meditations:

*Meditatio* in Latin means considering something deeply. Here we publish essays without methodological or academic pretension.

#### 3. The Spirituality Check:

Contributions in this category should explain a spiritual / religious term like an encyclopaedia article from a serious and academic perspective (see detailed instructions below).

#### 4. The Practice Test:

The Practice Test presents a spiritual activity from the subjective perspective of the author like a "spiritual consumer report" (see detailed instructions below).

#### 5. Comment and Review:

Comments on articles of other authors or real events and reviews of books and other media can be contributed in this category. A high level of argument is also required for this category.

#### 6. Report and Information:

Presentation of research results, reports on recent conferences and other short items of general interest; forthcoming events, research in preparation and research suggestions.

#### 7. Hágia Empeiría:

Subjective and personal reports on author's own spiritual experiences.

### **Important: Copyright & Permissions Information**

Submissions are accepted on the understanding that they are original and not published elsewhere. On the date of publication in JSTP, all copyright passes to the publisher, including the right to publish the article in printed form. By submitting the article, the author agrees with transferring all copyrights. Publication of the same text requires the publisher's permissions for a period of 3 years. Authors must obtain any necessary permissions for extensive quotations, tables, illustrations, or any other copyrighted material before a paper can be published. They also assume full responsibility for any violations of personal or other rights.

### **Manuscript Preparation and Format**

We kindly ask you to comply with the following rules for formatting articles:

1. **General format:** We accept articles in electronic form only that can be processed by text processing programs as Word (.doc/.docx), OpenOffice and similar (.odt) or RICH TEXT (.rtf) files.
2. **Formatting:** Please do not format your article other than indicated by this instruction; especially: no manual hyphenation, no tabulators, and no blanks for formatting! Use *automatic formation* like automatic bullet lists, automatic hyphenation etc.! Please insert one blank line between paragraphs but no indenting at the beginning of a paragraph.
3. **Manuscript size:** Manuscripts should be limited to 55,000 characters if submitted for Category 1 (science) (12-14 pages); 30,000 for Category 2 (Sententiae) (7-8 pages); 25,000 for Category 3 (Spirituality Check) and 4 (Reality Test) (about 6 pages); 15,000 for Category 5 (Commentary and Review) (3-4 pages) and 5,000 for Category 6 (Information und Report) (about 1.5 pages), including references and blanks.
4. **Accentuations:**
  - a. *Headings* may be formatted in bold and subheadings in italic. You might as well use automatic heading formats 4 and 5 (in WORD) instead. There must be no other text formatting. The use of subheadings is advisable for better comprehension.
  - b. *Accentuations* within the text should be made by italics.
  - c. *Names of authors* used in the text should not be accentuated.
5. **In-text Citations:** Standard quotation marks should be used („“). French quotation marks («») should not be used. Single quotation marks (...') should only be used within a quotation. Please use the APA standard for citations within the text, e.g., (Meier 2004). Other citation styles can also be used, under the condition that they are applied in a consistent and correct way (e.g. citation using footnotes).
6. **References:** A reference list should be added at the end of the document, formatted as follows:
  - a. **Monographs:** Author (year of publication): *Title of book*. Place of publication: name of publisher.  
  
e.g., Churchwell, Charles; Monroe, William & McBright, Henry (1980): *Finding a Citation*. Chicago: American Psychological Association.
  - b. **Edited books:** Author (year of publication): Title of article. In name of editor: *Title of book*, pages of the article. Place of publication: name of publisher.  
  
e.g., McDonalds, Arnold (1993): Practical methods for the apprehension and sustained containment of supernatural entities. In George L. Yeager (Ed.):

Paranormal and occult studies: Case studies in application, 42-64. London: Other World Books.

- c. **Articles:** Author (year of publication): Article title. *Journal Title*, Vol. Number (issue number), include page numbers of the article.

e.g., Shera, John H. (1964): Darwin, Bacon, and research in librarianship. *Library Trends*, 13 (1), 141-149.

7. **Footnotes:** Do not use footnotes extensively! Reference marks should be elevated numerals, continuously counting throughout the whole text. Electronic devices for referencing, like in WORD, should be used.
8. **Figures:** Please avoid using figures, images, diagrams, and tables if possible. If necessary, they must have a consecutively numbered caption, be inserted at the right place in the text *and additionally be saved separately as image files*. Please send all image files as an appendix with your email.
9. **Abstract and keywords:** For Category 1, please provide a summary (max. 1,200 characters including blanks) preceding the text and 5-7 keywords.
10. **Author profile:** We kindly ask authors to provide some information about themselves, e.g., first name, last name, academic degree, profession, current position, up to three main topics of interest, and address (either postal and email or email only).
11. **Submission:** Manuscripts must be sent as an attachment by email to → [redaktion@zeitschrift-fuer-spiritualitaet.de](mailto:redaktion@zeitschrift-fuer-spiritualitaet.de). The file name should contain the author's last name. Please do not send your contribution as hardcopy.

All manuscripts will be examined by the editor or an advisor. We endeavour to respond to submissions as soon as possible, however, your patience is appreciated.

*As is customary in academic journals, for unsolicited contributions no royalties are paid. However, authors who express this to the editor, share in the profits arising from the sale of the print editions and the paid online access to articles after the first edition period. The amount of the share corresponds to the respective part of the net profit. Payout in this case takes place once a year.*

## **Instructions for authors of *The Spirituality Check***

**Please use this standard introduction, always preceding the main article, as an orientation:**

*In a society in which large ecclesiastical institutions, endowed with the power to dictate a layperson's beliefs, do not control religious practice any more, diversity can become a problem. Who is not an expert, often needs qualified guides in order to distinguish sincere spirituality from charlatans and dangerous seducers. An objective appraisal what can be a sincere form of spirituality and what not is difficult to find because most experts advance their own worldview. With this series of articles, called *The Spirituality Check*, we want to illustrate from the perspective of a transcendental science of religions what distinguishes sincere from dubious uses of spiritual terms. Therefore, a concept will be presented with its etymology, its theoretical provenience, its practical application, and its occurrence today, and will be discussed with regard to its serious applicability.*

**Format:** Length and contents should resemble an encyclopaedia article with discussion.

### **Topics:**

The topics should be more or less well-known concepts from the spiritual, religious or esoteric context.

Please make sure that in the discussion part the question is touched: How do I distinguish legitimate from illegitimate uses of the term?

## **Series "The Practice Test": Instructions for Authors**

The article will always be introduced by this paragraph:

*The biblical statement, "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Mt 7, 16), we want to take literally. What are the fruits of spiritual teachers and communities of our time? A "consumers reports for spiritual institutions" must consider other than purely secular criteria; it must include the possibility of spiritual experiences and genuine personal transformation in every spiritual tradition. Nevertheless, it must be critical in order to separate dysfunctional from helpful spiritual activities by transcendental criteria. As long as scientific criteria in this respect hardly exist, the authors describe their experiences with a spiritual organisation, event or personality. The report is limited to the subjective experience of the author and is not intended as an objective assessment of the institution. The author is fully responsible for his / her opinion expressed here.*

We therefore recommend that all value judgments should be formulated in subjective terms: "I noted, I had the impression, for me as an observer, etc.". For legal reasons, do not use remarks interpretable as defamatory and libellous! Please avoid very strong value judgments as well: "This is a dangerous cult" or "This teacher is a true saint". Please strive to be in the largest possible degree accurate, impartial, and objective. Also, be critical towards your own perspective.

The article should be kept short (see above).

It is advisable to work through the following points in the article:

- Information on the institution (name, belonging to which organization)
- My relationship to this institution (the first time, have often been there)
- First impression, portrayal of the situation. What took place there?
- Assessment of spiritual integrity based on freely chosen, personal, but very *well-founded and intersubjectively verifiable* criteria