



EDITORIAL

Editorial Evolution for Academic Revolution



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We honor the past by asking braver questions of the future. Since 1987, the *Journal of Scientific Exploration (JSE)* has stood at the frontier of scientific knowledge—highlighting anomalies, challenging orthodoxy, embracing complexity, and inviting bold inquiry into the nature of reality and our place in it. Over time, paradigm shifts (Kuhn, 1962), growing autonomy and openness to novelty (Amabile, 1996), the rise of transdisciplinary networks that blur boundaries between science, society, and culture (Gibbons et al., 1994), shifting technological and social priorities (Nowotny et al., 2001), and evolving institutional and funding structures (Whitley, 2000) have reshaped scholarly methods and territories. To remain vital in this rapidly changing intellectual landscape—not for novelty’s sake, but to propel the revolutions that new ideas demand—the *Journal* must evolve its editorial team with fresh energy, perspectives, and expertise. Our Winter issue marks such a moment of meaningful transition.



Brian Laythe, Ph.D.

In this spirit, we offer our deepest gratitude to Dr. Brian Laythe, who steps down as Managing Editor after three years of unwavering service. Brian brought editorial precision, intellectual courage, and an unflagging commitment to excellence. Beyond the desk, he overhauled the Society of Scientific Exploration’s (SSE) community engagement, marketing, and outreach; spearheaded our move to regular online events; and helped to guide several of the behind-the-scenes efforts that kept the SSE and *JSE* thriving through some of our toughest moments. He also streamlined *JSE*’s production workflows and co-developed training resources that empower every editor, reviewer, and author. Under Brian’s leadership, the *Journal* became a true meeting place for rigorous science and open-minded exploration, and his legacy sets the foundation for our continued growth and improvement.



Cindy Little, Ph.D.

Stepping into the Managing Editor role is Dr. Cindy Little, whose arrival brings both continuity and renewal. Cindy has spent over two decades teaching gifted education, psychological assessment, early-childhood pedagogy, educational research, and anomalistics at the university level. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, an M.Ed. in Gifted Education, and a B.S. in Elementary Education, and her Baylor University research on creativity, flow, motivation, and parapsychology aligns perfectly with *JSE*'s frontier-science ethos. With her interdisciplinary vision and deep pedagogical insight—embodying both Kuhn's (1962) view of paradigm shifts, and Feyerabend's (1975/2010) call for methodological pluralism—Cindy is well poised to help usher the *JSE* into its next transformational chapter.



Mel Larrosa

We also welcome Mel Larrosa as our new Editor of Book & Multimedia Reviews, succeeding the inimitable P. David Moncrief. David's thoughtful stewardship of this important part of *JSE* enriched our discourse and set a high bar for excellence. Mel steps into this role with a rare blend of scientific rigor and bold innovation. A molecular biologist by training, she has founded 24 startups, mentored emerging entrepreneurs, and led an innovation center at a leading children's hospital—turning visionary ideas into real-world impact. Now in her third year of doctoral work in Psychology, she researches anomalous cognition,

insight, and provocative theories of mind, and she coordinates the Galileo Commission's Consciousness Initiative Group, which is helping to map new trajectories beyond materialist assumptions.

These transitions are not incidental but intentional steps toward a *Journal* that is more daring, diverse, and in tune with non-obedient science, i.e., rigorous inquiry that tests and extends prevailing frameworks rather than defers to them. With Cindy and Mel now taking over two of our key editorial roles, we likewise celebrate progress on women's underrepresentation in leadership roles (Lawson et al., 2022), as well as in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers (Frank & Parker, 2018). This further echoes broader initiatives that showcase female role models, encourage girls' early interest in science, and address persistent barriers to women's full participation (e.g., González-Pérez et al., 2020).

As 2025 comes to pass, we bid farewell to another year of provocative exploration and pause to pay tribute to several SSE icons we recently lost—Peter Sturrock, Chantal Toporow, Bill Bengston, and P. David Moncrief—whose scholarship, mentorship, and courage molded the field and whose legacies continue to fuel our mission and inspire our work. We will honor them not only in memory but in practice, by carrying forward the questions they cared about, preserving their contributions in our archives, and dedicating future conversations and special issues to the threads they began. And as we honor those who forged our path, we also celebrate those now guiding us into the next chapter. To Brian, Cindy, and Mel—and to every author, reviewer, and reader who ventures with us into the unknown—we extend our deepest appreciation and our highest hopes. *JSE*'s journey continues, the horizon expands, and at the boundary of certainty, wonder charts our course.

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