



# IEC ONLINE 2021

## GLOBAL GATHERING

THE FUTURE OF COLLECTIVE EVOLUTION

May 19-23, 2021

# CALL FOR PRESENTERS



## I. THE FUTURE OF COLLECTIVE EVOLUTION

### *Topic for 2021*

As we gather to share our integrally informed perspectives, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on our global collective situation and our future.

**What connects us integralists is the knowledge, or even felt sense, that our universe is not governed merely by blind chance and the laws of physics but there is an underlying, deeper intelligence, a spiritual force, that unfolds in stages.**

Ken Wilber collected, analyzed, and synthesized all the major available stage theories that describe this evolution, interiors and exteriors, in individuals and collectives. These range from earlier stages such as archaic, magic, and mythic to later stages like modern and postmodern, and beyond that to even newer stages that are emerging in these times, like integral consciousness and spiritual stages once only accessible to hidden mystics, but which are now becoming naturally woven into the mainstream world as many people have state experiences and begin to transition to these stages of development. **We need an integral approach to understand and deal with all these stages in one coherent map of reality, so as to communicate and collaborate on a global scale in a constructive and sustainable manner.** It is also very important to look out for and deal with shadow aspects and misunderstandings, because the higher we develop, the more there is that can go wrong.

As visionaries, it seems easy to project into the future and predict what will come and how it will all unfold. But reality often turns out differently; unexpected things happen. In the past few years, we have seen the rise of populist presidents with ego- and ethnocentric



mentalities, and then the global pandemic suddenly brought social and economic life to a halt, with social distancing and restriction of individual freedom becoming our daily reality, with no clear end in sight and a lack of wise political leadership.

In these times, we are called to reflect and listen deeper. **What seems to be the direction that evolution is taking and how can we make sense of it with the help of the Integral framework?** How can we envision a new and healthy world in which there is more connectedness and people are empowered? What will be the new norm? More restrictions and state control, more individual freedom, or is there a third option of collective governance that has never existed before?

**We need to look at our physical health and health systems, at restoring the health of the environment and the planet, and at a healthy global economic and financial system that breaks the current trends of destruction and injustice.** No one of us has the answer to all of these questions. But many of us have pieces of the answer, mastering the territory we walk in. We call out for presenters to share their knowledge, wisdom, insights, and practices, reflecting on these timely questions so that we can collectively put together the pieces.

## II. WHAT ARE IEC CONFERENCES?

**IEC conferences are the principal gatherings of the global integral community.**

Integral European Conferences are the premier venue for the global integral world to get together and exchange information, knowledge, and experience. Held once every year, IECs are not only a huge social catalyst, where international integral collaborations begin and enable our human capital to grow, they also have a mission based on integral principles.

### **What does IEC mean and is it local or global?**

IEC stands for Integral European Conference, as these gatherings started in Europe in 2014, seven years ago. At that time, there were also major integral conferences held in the USA, and inspired by that, leading integralists on the European continent joined forces and organized the first IEC in 2014 to







create a continental gathering particularly focused on integral theorists and practitioners from any one of the fifty-one European countries, with guests from other continents as well.

Over the years, IEC has grown from being a European “local” conference to become the main global venue of the integral world, where integral experts and others interested in this approach can meet and exchange their

latest findings. Due to its free, experiential, and fun nature, this conference is at the same time like a deeply meaningful holiday, and an opportunity for transformational personal growth.

### **Is IEC a live, in-person (offline) conference or online?**

Normally, IECs are in-person conferences where we gather together physically. Since the COVID pandemic, we have started online IECs, the first of which was held in May 2020. It was a great success with over 1,000 registrants from all corners of the world, including Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Many people showed up who had already had a desire to come to IEC, but couldn’t come before in person, and now they could! In doing so, they also became motivated to join the live gatherings.

Because normal international travel is still impossible due to the COVID pandemic, the 2021 conference will be held online again. The next in-person, live gathering is planned for 2022.





## What are the qualities of IEC gatherings?

At integral conferences, participants experience a high concentration of presence and awareness, as well as a very stimulating and high quality intellectual environment. "It is just impossible to have a boring conversation here," is how Dr. Roger Walsh, renowned transpersonal and integral psychologist, put it. At these conferences, people have a positive openness towards each other, and besides enjoying an intellectual feast, they are also ready to open up, play, and engage in deeper experiential processes together. It is a purposeful, colorful, and fun community to be with.

## What is the integral approach about?

One important aspect is the evolutionary orientation of positive growth: **seeing the developmental potentials of people, organizations, and humanity at large that unfold in stages.** In the integral view, evolution occurs not only in the objective, physical, exterior world as natural science has it, but also in the subjective interiors as psychology and spirituality describe it, and the integral framework helps connect the two. Thus, science, psychology, and spirituality are no longer separated but integrated translated into what we call the four quadrants, the matrix of our interiors and exteriors, the individual and the collective.

Ken Wilber's Integral Theory, a meta-theory that integrates over a hundred schools of psychology, spirituality, philosophy, sociology, and other human sciences, serves as a common denominator and theoretical reference point for IEC, because we consider it to be the most encompassing approach we know of today. Besides the expert Ken Wilber, IEC also brings together many other experts and practitioners from the evolutionary and developmental worlds. Thus, IECs are open and welcoming to people with all sorts of varying points of view.

**A useful metaphor for IEC might be a wide-open „tent,” where people with many evolutionary and developmental approaches gather, and where Wilber's Integral Theory is the „central pole.” The overarching tent canvas houses many other „tribes” from around the globe, all coming together to share knowledge and have transformative experiences.**





People and organizations who have come together at IECs are, to name just a few:

Susanne Cook-Greuter and Associates with Vertical Development; Integral Coaching Canada and many other coaches and organizational developers; Terri O'Fallon and Kim Barta with STAGES;

Integral Facilitators from Ten Directions with Diane Hamilton; Robert Kegan, developmental psychologist from Harvard; Stanislav Grof, Dr. Roger Walsh, and other transpersonal psychologists, and many other psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists, coaches, and counselors; migrant, refugee, and torture victim healers; medical doctors and alternative medical practitioners;

Don Beck and colleagues with the Gravesian-based Spiral Dynamics community; Frederic Laloux's Teal world including Holocracy; Torbert's Action Inquiry Leadership world; Otto Scharmer's Theory U and Presencing for individual and societal change from MIT;

Thomas Hübl and his community; Tom Steininger and Elizabeth Debold from Evolve and One World in Dialogue; Circling Europe and the global Circling community; John Dupuy and the whole team from iAwake Technologies; Non Violent Communication; environmental activists;

Sri Aurobindo's Integral Yoga and other yoga people; followers of Jean Gebser's worldview stages; Zen, Vipassana, and Tibetan Buddhists; Christians and Christian mystics; followers of Sufism, the mystic tradition of Islam; native Hungarian shamans and other shamanic traditions and energetic approaches; near-death experience experts;

Enneagram experts; next stage technology and AI people; collective consciousness and We-Space practitioners like Integral Flow and other Constellation methods; ecology and sustainability practitioners; artists, painters, musicians, and actors inspired by the integral approach – all these and many others join together at IECs. Contributions range from academic presentations to general lectures, a great variety of experiential workshops, transformative processes, and all-community socializers.







### III. ABOUT PRESENTATIONS

#### 1. Be familiar with Integral Theory

**We ask our presenters to familiarize themselves with Wilber's Integral Theory.** Some are experts in it, and some only know the basics so they can refer to it lightly. You don't need to be a Wilber follower – just be able to reference Integral Theory. An applicant who has never heard of Integral Theory and hasn't made the effort to familiarize him or herself at least to some degree might not be accepted to present. Presenters are invited to skillfully apply, deepen its understanding, lightly refer to, wisely criticize, mindfully correct, offer alternatives to Integral Theory, or present their own models, findings, theories, and practices – whatever feels true for them. All applications for all categories from all corners of the planet are welcome. Come, take a chance, and step up!

#### 2. Bring your topic and relate it to the conference title

When offering a presentation, we bring our own topic to share with the integral world while at the same time putting it in the context of the theme of the conference. Try to integrate these two purposes, without contrivance, leaving space for creative emergence.

#### 3. Time zones: How to meet globally at the same time

At an online conference we have a special situation, where people can only participate according to their waking hours. Therefore, instead of following the structure and variety of presentations we know from the live IEC events, we focus mainly on one main type of presentation format: a 90-minute presentation slot in which theory and practice should be combined. In that way, whether someone joins from Europe, the Americas, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, or Australia, they will be able to participate in at least some of the sessions live and enjoy the exchange in breakout rooms, while watching other presentations as a recording.

The conference is run from Europe; 50% of attendees are Europeans and 50% from the rest of the world. So, we put the most important keynotes and the main evening events





in the afternoon and evening hours of CEST (Central European Standard Time zone), which includes Paris, Berlin, Budapest, etc., because that is when most people are awake all around the globe and have the most chance to get together. But presentations and events are also ongoing throughout the day in Europe, from 8 am CEST to 12 midnight.

All sessions are recorded, and those who have joined the conference and purchased a ticket can access them later.

#### **4. The conference platform**

Zoom is our online conference platform. As at the live conferences, for keynote presentations and all community processes we have a main hall and for other presentations we have parallel rooms. Within the IEC team, a whole subteam hosts these calls with both a technical host and a facilitator host. If you present, you will be provided with details about how to contact your hosts to prepare the session well for a smooth experience. If you are an experienced online facilitator and would like to become part of this team, please email us.

#### **5. Presentation formats**

At live IEC conferences, there is a complex format with multiple types of offerings, slots, and events, with two days of pre-conference workshops, keynotes, and 20-minute



TED-style talks in the mornings, long experiential workshops in the afternoons, and community events in the evenings. Therefore, there are multiple formats to apply for in different categories.

For the Online IEC we made it much simpler to accommodate different time zones and the online Zoom format. There is only one main type of 90-minute presentation slot, and there are no thematic categories in the application. Please review your options below.

#### **a, Standard presentations: 90-minute presentation**

Presenters will all have a 90-minute Zoom session. We ask all presenters to combine their lecture with some experiential exercises and opportunities to share in breakout rooms. The nature of a mature integral experience includes both the mind and the body, sense and soul, understanding and feeling, verbal and nonverbal, even sometimes altered states. Often the presenter is also a facilitator, facilitating we-space practices, relational practices, helping people to connect more deeply and authentically, leading guided meditations, having people stand up and move, etc.

#### **b, Keynote presentations**

Keynote presentations are 30 minutes long, and selected by the conference organizers by invitation. There are only a limited number of these slots. Therefore, there is no formal option for applying for a keynote presentation. Nevertheless, if you feel your offering would fit a keynote, or you wish to suggest a new speaker, you can email our team to inquire.

#### **c, Morning practices**

You can also offer morning practices via Zoom, such as meditation, yoga, movement, etc. to start the day with some centering, purifying, spiritual practice. This means CEST morning time, but anyone can join from other continents, for them it might be a daytime or evening session.

#### **d, Art presentations**

The presence of beauty through art is very important to us for a truly integral experience. If you are an artist and have ideas how this can work in an online format, please apply through the online form (and if you have an idea how to integrate it into a workshop or otherwise, email us directly). We will probably not have an online gallery like last time, but we are still open to creative ideas and input.

### **6. How to apply to present**

To apply, you need to go to the presenter's application page on the IEC website (find it under the IEC 2021 ONLINE main menu at <https://integraleuropeanconference.com>) and fill out the application form there. Please provide all the information we ask for so we can assess your application, and if we accept it, we can use the info to post on the conference website and in our social media promotions.

Also, we strongly suggest you sign up for our emails so you are informed about what is happening leading up to IEC. This is the way to be in the flow as we approach the conference: <https://integraleuropeanconference.com/join-us/>.

