



MSR Newsletter May/June 2026

A Message from our Leadership Team



Dr. Tom Culham, MSR Chair

We are thrilled to share the progress of MSR Goals . At MSR, we are excited about the three goals that we have been working towards over the past several years.

They include:

- Develop the quality of MSR Research and Teaching
- Connection, Network, Community and Outreach
- Pursue existing and new partnerships.

The activities taken to advance each goal are provided below.

1. Develop the quality of MSR Research and Teaching

Our research group: Tianyuan Yu, Naida Culshaw, Stacey Guenther, Konstantin Weicht, and Gaëtan Mourmant, held a research webinar on the December 15th 2025, titled *Mapping Spiritual Awakening: Diverse Journeys of Consciousness Expansion delivered by Dr. Steve Taylor*. On the March 26th 2026 , a webinar was held titled *Embracing an Indigenous/ist paradigm: Research as an Interface Journey*. More exciting events are planned throughout the year.

Our recently formed Teaching and Learning group: Deborah Natoli, Megan Bolin, Reema Nayyar, and Nadeem Muhammad, was successful in submitting two PDWs to the AOM conference. The team held a teaching and learning webinar on the April 14th where Dr. Brian Moriarty led an interactive session on the topic of '*Giving Voice to Values*.' More exciting events are planned throughout the year.

2. Connection, Network, Community and Outreach

Danny Sandra leads a monthly zoom meeting of European MSR members designed to provide a space for members to get together, connect and discuss their work.

Two new initiatives are in the process of being developed, one in Africa managed by Barbara Nusbaum and the other in India managed by Aditya Agrawal.

Ekaterina Ivanova our communications lead with the support of Gaetan Mourmant our technology lead is sharing news across multiple platforms with MSR members and others interested in the MSR Field.

On April 29th, The MSR Flamekeepers hosted Ervin Laszlo, one of the world's leading systems philosophers and prolific authors. It was a deeply inspiring and thought-provoking session open to all.

Drawing from his latest book, *The Sacred Quest*, Laszlo invited participants into a rich exploration of consciousness, cooperation, and the future of life on Earth. Framing humanity's current moment as a pivotal turning point, he emphasized the urgent need to embrace our interconnectedness and consciously co-create a more sustainable and harmonious world. Blending insights from science and spirituality, Laszlo presented a powerful vision of evolution—not as a passive process, but as one in which we are active participants.

The conversation resonated deeply with MSR's mission, leaving participants with both a sense of responsibility and possibility to rethink leadership and action through the lens of unity and conscious evolution.

3. Pursue existing and new partnerships

At the international symposium "*SDGs through Hindu Worldviews: Spiritual Care in a VUCA–BANI World*," held on February 25th–26th, 2026 at IIT (BHU), Varanasi, MSR collaborated closely with IIT (BHU), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, European Spirituality in Economics and Society Institute (SPES), and OMRISE Research group from Banasthali University Jaipur, fostering meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue.

MSR's collaborative engagement also extended through its contribution to the SIM division. through the SIMply Teaching Conversation Hour on "The Soul of the Classroom – Reclaiming the Human Element," held on March 24, which brought together scholars to reflect on human dignity, AI, and student well-being in contemporary education.

The upcoming Professional Development Workshop, "*Meet the Editors: Publishing at the Intersection of Management, Spirituality, Religion, and Social Issues in Management and Entrepreneurship*," will bring together scholars across the divisions MSR, SIM, and Entrepreneurship (ENT), in dialogue with editors from leading journals such as Journal of Management, Spirituality & Religion, Society and Business Review, Business & Society, Business and Society Review, Small Business Economics, Journal of Small Business Management, and Entrepreneurship & Regional Development. The session will foster interdisciplinary exchange and provided guidance on publishing across these intersecting fields.

Current Trends in MSR Research



AI Ethics and MSR

Raja Kanuri,

PhD candidate Vrije University, Amsterdam, Lecturer- SRH University of Applied Sciences, Berlin. Although only shortly engaged in academic research and that too in the discipline of 'Spirituality,' it is certain to me that MSR makes several efforts in this direction. The last few years of my engagement with MSR brings me to learn that this community is open in many ways: from academic efforts to practitioner perspectives, business to technology, and east to west.

Any discussion these days is incomplete without the keyword 'AI', specifically 'generative AI'. Many from MSR have shown interest in the intersection of spirituality and AI systems. While this innate ability of MSR is enriching, it also reminds of the new possibilities which we can venture into. Building on what Danny Sandra said in the previous newsletter, two important themes surface which could be of interest to our vital community: AI Ethics and Postphenomenology.

Through my research for "*A call for vedantic worldview towards human centricity in AI Ethics (2025)*", I have come to know that studying AI systems and AI ethics are two different but related things. Of these, due to the proximity between

ethics and spirituality, AI ethics is a field of exploration for the MSR community. The field of AI ethics misses spiritual perspectives, although it is as inter-disciplinary as spirituality is. This gap is also filled by newer methodologies such as postphenomenology.

Rooted in classical phenomenology, postphenomenology is an evolving discipline which philosophises the relationships humans have with technology. Its empirical nature and first-hand approach to technology brings it closer to the spirit of spirituality. Moreover, the founders of postphenomenology also emphasise that as a methodology, postphenomenology is open to new paradigms and can be custom tailored by the researcher. MSR can build on these gaps and identify newer fields and approaches to research, moving away from the existing theoretical approaches.

Member Spotlight



Dr. Angela Chen

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership, University of Melbourne [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Chen is a qualitative researcher based in Melbourne, Australia. Her research team brought Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members together in dialogue for a project called Historical Frontier Violence: Drivers, legacy and the role of truth-telling. From this work, they developed the paper "[Fostering Healing Through Truth-telling: Lessons From a Workshop to Create a Vision for Community Unity.](#)" She is also the project manager for the Indigenous Economic Power Project that puts out the yearly [Snapshot report](#). Her doctoral journey included interests centered around compassion and suffering. Now working at Dilin Duwa, she is researching ways to heal division amongst groups of people and to create an economically powerful Indigenous Australia. Outside of her research, she has taken improv classes that have helped her practice being more present in her body and to let go of control. She also enjoys cooking, a new hobby that allows her to explore her creative side and accept failure gracefully.

Recent Events @ MSR

April 14 - Giving Voice To Values Interactive Presentation

08:00 to 09:30 (PT), Hosted by MSR Teaching and Learning Committee

Details: Interactive presentation with small-group discussions With Dr. Brian Moriarty, (University of Virginia) as guest-speaker and Dr. Deborah Natoli (University of Southern California) as facilitator.

Link to recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOctW1dOOLI>

April 15 - MSR Monthly virtual gathering

4:00-5:00 pm BE, Hosted by Danny Sandra

An opportunity to share updates, nurture research, foster collaboration, and strengthen the MSR Division Community.

April 24 - Researching Psychedelic Experience: Promise, Pitfalls, and Possibilities for Management and Spirituality Scholarship

11:00 - 12:30 am Eastern Time

Organized by the MSR Research Committee and co-hosted by Stacey Guenther (George Mason University, USA) and Mohammed Raei (Antioch University, Jordan)

About the webinar:

This interactive webinar invites scholars of management and spirituality to explore the challenges and opportunities of researching psychedelic experience in contemporary settings. As interest grows in the intersections of leadership development, meaning-making, and altered states of consciousness, rigorous and reflective scholarship is increasingly needed. The session will include presentations by researchers studying psychedelic experience as well as a retreat leader of psychedelic-centered development who works with research partners. A small group activity will invite participants to generate ideas on how they would conduct research related to psychedelic experience. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of the promise and pitfalls found in this type of research and how they might engage in studying psychedelic experience if they are interested. This webinar is designed to foster thoughtful dialogue, practical insight, and new collaborations at the frontier of management and spirituality research. The webinar is hosted by Stacey Guenther, PhD, and Mohammed Raei, PhD, who co-edited a book called *Leadership at the Spiritual Edge* (Routledge, 2024). They are both spiritual seekers interested in a wide variety of mystical experiences.

Speakers for the session: Bennet Zelner, PhD, and Rachele Sampson, PhD, both of University of Maryland (USA), and will be sharing their experiences of a recently completed study on psychedelic

Experience. Dmitrij Achelrod, PhD, is co-founder of the Evolute Institute in the Netherlands.

Links to Recordings:

Part 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZLH4YPDazs>

Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-JtPFOIL9I>

April 29 - The Sacred Quest for Oneness: a lifetime in search of ultimate answers

09:00 to 10:30 (PT), Organized by Jerry Bieberman, Chris Laszlo and Ana Karina Smith Cain

About the webinar:

Join renowned systems philosopher [Ervin Laszlo](#) for a powerful conversation on consciousness, cooperation, and the future of life on Earth. [The Sacred Quest](#), the latest of his over 100 published books, is both a guide and an invitation: to embrace our interconnectedness, co-create a sustainable future, and step into the sacred task of becoming one with our living world. In *The Sacred Quest*, Ervin Laszlo presents a profound integration of science and spirituality. Discover how we can consciously participate in the evolutionary process and realize our connection to the greater whole.

Speakers for the session: Prof Erwin Laszlo

Link to recording: www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiaD1-dxVes

May 19 - MSR Monthly virtual gathering hosted by Danny Sandra

May 26-27 2026 MSR Virtual Retreat, “Lived Experience as a Pathway to Spiritual Flourishing”

Organized by: MSR Retreat 2026 Committee (K. Davina Frick, Jerry Bieberman and Soumya Dutta)

Four interconnected blocks, spanning a continuous 24+ hour experience

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-msr-virtual-retreat-tickets-1988714695188?aff=oddtcreator>

Event schedule: msr.aom.org/events/retreat

On the Horizon @ MSR

Do you have an MSR activity you want others to know about - please check out these handy instructions on how to [Add an Event to the MSR calendar](#) or [Create a Discussion post](#).

Upcoming Events

June 9, 2026, 6:00 AM (Los Angeles) | 9:00 AM (New York) | 3:00 PM (Vienna) | 10:00 PM (Tokyo)

Reflective Webinar featuring the editors of the newly launched book, *The Power of Arts-Based Pedagogies: Transforming Mindsets to Shape Our Future*.

Organized by: MSR Teaching and Learning Committee

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9957231775>

Details: Dr. Ekaterina Ivanova (HSE University Graduate School of Business), Dr. Isabel Rimanoczy (PRME Working Group on Sustainability Mindset), and Dr. Divya Singhal (Goa Institute of Management) will share insights from their journey of conceptualizing and curating this interdisciplinary volume as co-editors. Drawing on contributions from educators worldwide, the book highlights arts-based approaches that transform learning experiences. The session will conclude with a moderated Q&A led by Dr. Deborah J. Natoli (USC Price School of Public Policy), chair of the MSR Teaching and Learning Committee.

June 11–12, 2026 (around-the-clock gathering beginning at 10:00 a.m. ET)

2026 MSR Research Colloquium, “The Mystical and Research: Dwelling at the Threshold of Knowing”, to be held virtually

Organised by: MSR Research Committee (Tianyuan Yu, Naida Culshaw, Stacey Guenther, Konstantin Weicht, Gaëtan Mourmant, Aditya Agrawal and Danyil Nychka)

Details: This 36-hour, around-the-clock global gathering brings together scholars and practitioners to explore how mystical experience may be embodied, researched, taught, and brought into leadership, management, and organizational life. The program features plenaries, scholarly sessions, dialogues, contemplative and embodied practices, and collective inquiry across a wide range of topics, such as science and mystical experience; dreams, divination, and timelessness; spiritual transformation and ontological shift; forgiveness and gratitude; sacred leadership; healing and empowerment; spiritual research paradigms, methodologies, and evaluation criteria; the ethics of researching the transcendence; the researcher’s inner journey; communal wisdom and higher consciousness in higher education; and more. We warmly invite you to visit the colloquium website, review the program, and register through the “Register on Eventbrite” button on the webpage.

Link: <https://msr.aom.org/events/colloquium>

June 17 - MSR Monthly virtual gathering 4:00-5:00 pm BE

Hosted by Danny Sandra,

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95390517519> Passcode: 795676

June 23, 2026, 9:00-10:30 AM EDT

AOM MSR Division Open House, “Finding your research home”, to be held virtually

Keynote speakers: Prof. Jerry Biberman, Ph.D. (MSR Founding Member), Prof. Dr Payal Kumar, Dr. Ekaterina Ivanova, Dr. Gaetan Mourmant - R, Saloni Sinha and Vineet Arora
Details: MSR invites you to discover a vibrant scholarly home

where questions of human flourishing, ethics, well-being, and sustainability take center stage. Link to register:

Meeting Registration -

<https://aom-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/Unmpzu9wSNyugrKjXOAVQQ#/registration>

July 31- August 2, 2026

World Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES) conference 2026, Biennial conference by the World Association for Vedic Studies

Theme: Living Wisdom: Reintegrating Ayurveda and Vedic Sciences in the Modern World Free online participation

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/waves-2026-at-miu-tickets-1988736806323?aff=oddtcreator>

Calls for Submissions

Special Issue of the Journal of Management Spirituality and Religion: “Broadening Management, Spirituality and Religion Research: Crosscutting Dialogue Across Disciplines”

Editors: Ekaterina Ivanova (HSE University Graduate School of Business) and Nicholas Burton (Northumbria University).

Submission deadline: September 30, 2026

Link: https://www.iamsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/JMSR-Call-Special_Issue_Reviews_Final.pdf

Special Issue of the Journal of Positive Psychology: “Religion, Spirituality, and Human Flourishing: A Social Scientific Approach”

Editor: Victor Counted (Regent University)

Submission deadline: October 30, 2026

Link: https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/religion-spirituality-and-human-flourishing-a-social-scientific-approach/

Special Issue of the Journal of Management Spirituality and Religion : “Holistic and Quantum-Inspired Education for Management, Spirituality, and Religion”

Editors: Kathryn Pavlovich (University of Waikato) and Stacie Chappell (University Canada West)

Submission deadline: October 31, 2026

Link: https://www.iamsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-02-26_Call_for_Papers_QuantumEducation_FINAL.pdf

Special Issue of the Mathematics Education Research Journal: “Mathematics Education and Human Flourishing in the context of AI: Enabling, Unenabling, and Disenabling Practices”

Editors: Hans-Stefan Siller (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg); Vince Geiger (Australian

Catholic University), Norbert Noster (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg), and Mirjam Schmid (Australian Catholic University)

Submission status: Open

Link: <https://link.springer.com/collections/daacciciadg>

Call for conference papers:

Spirituality and Management Conference 2027, Centre for Spirituality, XLRI Jamshedpur, India.

“Spiritual Intelligence in Leadership: Cultivating Inner Wisdom for Compassionate and Effective Decision-Making”

Conference date: February 5-7, 2027

Submission deadline for abstracts: August 15, 2026

Submission deadline for full papers: December 1, 2026

Link: <https://sc-2026.xlri.ac.in/#conference>

Recent Publications of our MSR Members

Sharing our research is yet another way to connect with one another. This section is an opportunity to share our MSR scholarly work. These works were submitted to the CommTech team recently. If you have a recent publication or conference paper please submit it using [this form](#) and we will include it in a future issue.

Articles:

Yu, T., Teehanke, B., & Rocha, R. (2026). Searching for spiritual research paradigms: A systematic review of methodologies in management, spirituality and religion. *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20440243.2026.2677210>

Books:

Ivanova, E., Rimanoczy, I., & Singhal, D. (Eds.). (2026). *The Power of Arts-Based Pedagogies: Transforming Mindsets to Shape Our Future*. New York, NY: Routledge.

MSR Social Media

Don't miss out on staying connected with us on social media.

- YouTube: <https://msr.aom.org/youtube>
- Facebook: <https://msr.aom.org/facebook>
- LinkedIn: <https://msr.aom.org/linkedin>

We look forward to hearing from all our MSR members

If you would like to contribute to a future newsletter, please add your contribution in [this form](#).