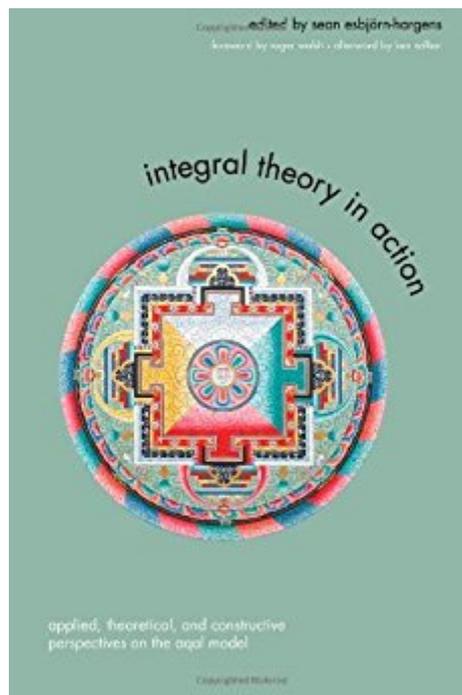


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Integral Theory In Action: Applied, Theoretical, And Constructive Perspectives On The AQAL Model (SUNY Series In Integral Theory)



Synopsis

Leading scholar-practitioners discuss the strengths, limits, and potential of Integral Theory and the AQAL model. In a world as complex as ours, an integral approach is needed to help sort through a dynamic landscape and respond effectively to individual and collective challenges. Integral Theory in Action provides the first multi-authored overview of such an approach. Integral Theory is the result of 30 years of research and is being applied in over 35 distinct disciplines. This volume brings together two dozen leading scholar-practitioners who are actively applying integral principles and who address a range of issues from an integral perspective including: climate change, embodiment, feminist aesthetics, community discourse, treatment of depression, developmental theory, and global ethics. The strengths, limitations, and potential of Integral Theory and Ken Wilber's AQAL model are weighed by each contributor. This collection pushes the field of Integral Theory in new ways and new directions, and provides a comprehensive overview that makes it an invaluable resource for any integral effort. Matthew Solomon is Associate Professor of Cinema Studies at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York. He is the author of *Disappearing Tricks: Silent Films, Houdini, and the New Magic of the Twentieth Century*.

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In a world often perceived to be divided into camps of contending traditional mythologies, modern ideologies and postmodern constructivisms, some people find the reality behind and within the play of diverse polarities, including the polarities of individual and collective, interior subjectivity and exterior objectivity, eros-driven ascent and agape-centred descent. One important map of this reality behind and within the play of diverse polarities is Ken Wilber's AQAL (all-quadrants, all-levels of development, all-lines of development, all-states of consciousness, all types of typologies) integral theory. However crude Wilber's AQAL map is and it is a work in progress, it does attempt to take into account more variables (aspects of reality) than most models that are currently available. Let's be clear that integral theory is very complex and very challenging to fully appreciate and understand. If you believe your religious mythology is exclusively true, or your political ideology is unquestionably correct, or your scientific epistemology, methodology or ontology is the only true source of repeatable evidence, then the essays in *Integral Theory in Action* will not appeal to you. However, if you want to make sense of reality in ways somewhat similar to the work of Roy Bhaskar, Jurgen Habermas, and other theorists with a critical appreciation of premodernity, modernity and postmodernity, then the essays in this book will very much appeal to you. One essay I would like to mention is Mark Edwards' 'Of Elephants and Butterflies'. In it, Edwards goes beyond Wilber's AQAL theory in a well considered attempt to establish the new field of integral meta-studies. He provides interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work of outstanding quality. There are rich vistas of complex material here for the thoughtful reader to digest, understand, and embody in practice.

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