

## M.A./PH.D PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY, RELIGION, AND CONSCIOUSNESS

ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAM *pending approval by the U.S. Department of Education*



The study of human consciousness traverses phenomena in the psychology of the unconscious, religious and spiritual experience, near-death experience, altered states of consciousness, the mind-matter problem, as well as the broad spectrum and phenomenology of consciousness itself. Pacifica Graduate Institute's online M.A./Ph.D program in Psychology, Religion, and Consciousness (PRC) rigorously and creatively engages with such diverse and wide-ranging phenomena, and dialogically synthesizes these vital areas of academic inquiry into a unique inter-disciplinary graduate-level education.

The PRC program critically considers the psychology of religious experiences and practices across a wide range of disciplines including the nature of religious consciousness as it arises both individually and collectively. The approach is both theoretical – and to a certain extent – experiential, with students sampling certain practices or considering forms of spirituality as ways of life through the living examples of specific individuals, cultures, and emerging paradigms. Throughout, the program addresses the pressing problems and crises of our time, including the growing ecological crisis, post-patriarchal religion and spirituality, the violation and exploitation of nature, the restitution of Indigenous and marginalized psychologies and cosmologies, and the emergence of globalized consciousness.

Students participate in graduate-level online courses, two per quarter, over a period of three years. Courses are organized as ten modules per quarter consisting of weekly pre-recorded lectures by faculty and a weekly live online interactive classroom. These two components, along with additional online message boards, serve as the main areas of faculty and student engagement.

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES INCLUDE

1. Demonstrate ability to articulate and apply key concepts and approaches derived from relevant perspectives in psychology, religion, and consciousness studies.
2. Critically analyze theoretical approaches in the study of psychology, religion, and consciousness.
3. Conduct research that makes an original scholarly contribution.
4. Demonstrate introspective capacities and a depth psychological or religious sensibility in the exploration and understanding of both personal and collective experience.
5. Evaluate the study of psychology, religion, and consciousness in relation to other disciplines and to historical and cultural contexts.
6. Demonstrate the capacity for structured thought, and the clear articulation and persuasive communication of theories and perspectives in the psychology of religion and consciousness studies.
7. Analyze the significance and practice of psychology, religion, and consciousness studies to 21st century conditions, including globalization, ethical concerns, diversity, and multiple ways of knowing.