

# Introduction to the Special Issue on Eupsychia

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## Keywords

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A seminal figure in humanistic psychology who cofounded the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology (JHP)* in 1961, Abraham Maslow left a unique and unfinished legacy. Many of the concepts he advanced, such as growth mind-set, the hierarchy of inborn needs, peak-experiences, self-actualization, and synergy continue to influence theory and research throughout the world today. These fields range from counseling, education, and management to health care, urban planning, and tourism studies. Yet, as Maslow's biographer and an active contributor to *JHP*, I have long felt that his intriguing, speculative notion of eupsychia (defined as a community of 1,000 self-actualizing people) had languished since his death and deserved a fresh appraisal. With immediate encouragement from JHP chief editor Sarah Kamens, I accepted guest editorship of a special issue on the theme of eupsychia. The productive result comprises these 7 wide-ranging articles, and here is a brief overview.

Alan Briskin and James Regan both examine eupsychia from the standpoint of Maslow's original focus on organizations, especially related to the workplace. Though writing from different vantage points on eupsychian management (Maslow's influential term) they identify ways in which his concept has been applied yet also flouted in the decades since its formulation.

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Relatedly, Andrew Bland and Brett Swords focus on Maslow's view of eupsychian leadership, outlining essential qualities that have been empirically validated since his death in 1970. Additionally, they provide a heuristic framework for practical decision-making for those seeking to implement his vision. Nadine Weidman places Maslow's search for the ideal community within the historical context of American society during the tumultuous 1960s and the 3 specific places where he found eupsychia most actualized. Characterizing his approach as "utopian realism," she discusses its implications for our own badly-divided society.

Gazing toward the future, Steve Taylor relates Maslow's psychological utopianism to the realm of politics and government. The article identifies hyperindividualism and narcissistic power-seeking as primary obstacles to building a eupsychian society, and suggests how these destructive aspects can be eliminated or mitigated. Shoji Muramoto highlights the work of the Japanese philosopher Kiyoshi Miki (1897–1945), whose writings and difficult life in Imperial Japan provide considerations on Maslow's utopian ideals. In particular, Miki's experiences indicate how socio-economic conditions affect individual growth and how totalitarian dictatorship can thwart talented, self-actualizing intellectuals. Finally, Tass Bey and I analyze the influence of Aldous Huxley on Maslow's views on pedagogy and radical educational change as means for transforming American society. Through Huxley's writings and friendship, Maslow came to see Huxley as the most important thinker of their time in helping to bring the eupsychian vision closer to fruition.

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