

Article

Spiritual Maturity: An Exploratory Study and Model for Social Work Practice

January 2008

Authors:



David Derezotes



Au-Deane Cowley



John Thompson



Erica Shields

[Show all 5 authors](#)

[Request full-text](#)

[Download citation](#)

[Copy link](#)



To read the full-text of this research, you can request a copy directly from the authors.

[Citations \(1\)](#)

[References \(57\)](#)

Abstract

Spiritual maturity is a fundamental dimension of human development that can help inform macro and micro level social work practice. On the macro level we need spiritually mature leaders who can help form coalitions of spiritually maturing people across the boundaries of nation, religion, class, gender, culture, and race. At the micro scale, there is a need for spiritually mature parents, leaders, and professional healers who have the courage, wisdom, and skills required to help navigate families and local communities through the stormy seas of accelerating ecobiopsychosocial-spiritual change. It is our premise that this task of describing spiritual maturity can and must be accomplished. In this paper, we report the findings of a study we have conducted, which explored how 200 adults view spiritual maturity. Implications of these findings for local and global social work practice are then advanced.

Discover the world's research

- 25+ million members
- 160+ million publication pages
- 2.3+ billion citations [Join for free](#)

Sponsored videos



No full-text available



To read the full-text of this research, you can request a copy directly from the authors.

[Request full-text PDF](#)

[Citations \(1\)](#)

[References \(57\)](#)

Hinduism, Christianity, and Liberal Religious Toleration

Article [Full-text available](#)

Feb 2005 · *POLIT THEORY*

Jeff Spinner-Halev

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Predicting the Use of Spiritually-Derived Interventions in Social Work Practice

Article [Full-text available](#)

Nov 2004

Michael J. Sheridan

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Interreligious Encounter Group: A Psychospiritual Experience For Faith Development

Article [Full-text available](#)

Oct 1990

Vicky Genia

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Transpersonal Perspectives on Spirituality in Social Work

Book

May 2013

Edward Canda · Elizabeth D Smith

[View](#)

Tackling men's violence in families: Nordic issues and dilemmas

Book

Jun 2005

Maria Eriksson · Marianne Hester · Suvi Keskinen · Keith Pringle

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Male Spirituality and the Men's Movement: A Factorial Examination of Motivations

Article

Mar 2005

J.D. Castellini · W.M. Nelson III · J.J. Barrett · Gerald Louis. Quatman

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Proposed Levels of Christian Spiritual Maturity

Article

Dec 2004

Timothy S. Gibson

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Religions, Values, and Peak-Experiences.

[Article](#)

Apr 1965

David M. Wulff · Abraham H. Maslow

[View](#)

The American Religion: The Emergence of a Post-Christian Nation

[Article](#)

Jun 1993

Thomas Robbins · Harold Bloom

[View](#)

Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning

[Article](#)

Sep 1982

John P. Keating · James W. Fowler

[View](#)

Spiritual Choices: The Problem of Recognizing Authentic Paths to Inner Transformation

[Article](#)

Mar 1989

 Eva Marie Garrouette ·  Dick Anthony ·  Bruce Ecker · Ken Wilber

[View](#)

Malignant Self Love -Narcissism Revisited EXCERPTS

[Article](#)

Sam Vaknin

[View](#)

Religious Resurgence, Human Survival, and Global Religious Social Work

[Article](#)

Feb 2009

David Derezotes

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Transpersonal Psychology and Social Work Education

[Article](#)

Jan 1994

Au-Deane S. Cowley · David Derezotes

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

The American Religion: The Emergence of the Post-Christian Nation:The American Religion: The Emergence of the Post-...

[Article](#)

Oct 1997

Paul Jerome Croce

[View](#)

The Protestant Deformation and American Foreign Policy

[Article](#)

Mar 1998 · [Orbis](#)

James Kurth

[View](#)

Religion and American feminism[Article](#)Mar 2005 · [SOCIETY](#)

Wendy McElroy

[View](#)

Chapter 2: Sex and the Elderly: No Laughing Matter in Religion[Article](#)

Jul 2003

Barbara Pittard Payne Stancil

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Essays on Moral Development[Article](#)

Jan 1984

L. Kohlberg

[View](#)

Transpersonal social work: A theory for the 1990s[Article](#)

Sep 1993

Au-Deane S. Cowley

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Sex, Ecology, Spirituality: The Spirit of Evolution[Article](#)

Jan 2000

Ken Wilber

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

The Individual and His Religion; A Psychological Interpretation[Article](#)

Apr 1951

Gordon W. Allport

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

What Religion Brings to the Politics of Transitional Justice[Article](#)Jun 2009 · [J Int Aff](#)

Daniel Philpott

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

American Religious History[Chapter](#)

Apr 2008

William James

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Gender Differences in Spiritual Development During the College Years[Article](#)

Jun 2007

Alyssa N. Bryant

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)

Religions, Values, and Peak-Experiences / A.H. Maslow.[Article](#)

Jan 1994

Abraham H. Maslow

[View](#)**Research Design : Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches / J.W. Creswell.**[Article](#)

Jan 2009

● John W Creswell

[View](#)**The Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study in Human Nature**[Article](#)

Jan 1902

William James

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)**Addressing the psychospiritual distress of death as reality: A transpersonal approach**[Article](#)

Jun 1995

E D Smith

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)**Gender differences in religious practices, spiritual experiences and health: Results from the US General Soci...**[Article](#)

Jul 2006

● Joanna Maselko · ● Laura D Kubzansky

[View](#) [Show abstract](#)**What lies beneath Bush and the liberal democrats**

81-90

M Kazen

Kazen, M., (2008), What lies beneath Bush and the liberal democrats. *World Affairs*, Winter, 81-90**New Scholarship in the Human Services Volume 7, Number 1 Predicting the use of spiritually-derived interventions in...**

5-22

Religious

Religious rDerezotes et al. © Currents: New Scholarship in the Human Services Volume 7, Number 1, 2008 23 Sheridan, M. (2004). Predicting the use of spiritually-derived interventions in social work practice: A survey of practitioners. *Journal of religion and spirituality in Social Work*, 23(4), 5-22**A new religious America: How a Christian Country has become the world's most religiously diverse nation An...**

1811

D L Eck

Eck, D.L. (2001). *A new religious America: How a Christian Country has become the world's most religiously diverse nation*. New York: HarperCollins. Disponett, K. & Bresch, E. (2007). An exploratory study of the relationship between gender orientation, sensation seeking, risk preference, and spirituality. *Dissertation Abstracts International Section A: Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol 68(5-A), pp. 1811**Spiritually oriented social work**

D S Derezotes

Derezotes, D.S. (2005). *Spiritually oriented social work*. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon

**Cosmic consciousness: Path or pathology? In
Transpersonal perspectives on spirituality in social work**

77-94

A D Cowley

Cowley, A.D. (2001). Cosmic consciousness: Path or pathology? In Transpersonal perspectives on spirituality in social work. Canda & E. D. Smith, Eds. New York: The Haworth Press. (Published simultaneously in Social Thought: Journal of Religion in the Social Services, 20(½), pp. 77-94)

**Outwitting the developing countries? Existential insecurity
and the global resurgence of religion**

21-45

S M Thomas

Thomas, S.M. (2007). Outwitting the developing countries? Existential insecurity and the global resurgence of religion. Journal of International Affairs, 61(1), 21-45

**The effects of relaxation and meditation on assisted living
residents, their neighbors, and the overall quality of life of...**

R H Vela

Vela, R.H. (2005). The effects of relaxation and meditation on assisted living residents, their neighbors, and the overall quality of life of the residential facility. (Dissertation) 41(1) No. 518, University of Kansas

**Integral spirituality: A startling new role for religion in the
modern and Post modern world**

Jan 2006

K Wilber

Wilber, K. (2006). Integral spirituality: A startling new role for religion in the modern and Post modern world. Boston: Integral Books.

**Director of the Bridge Clinic, Chair of the Practice and Mental
Health Domains at the College of Social Work**

David Derezotes · Lcsw · Phd · Professor

David Derezotes, LCSW, PhD, Professor, Director of the Bridge Clinic, Chair of the Practice and Mental Health Domains at the College of Social Work, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112. Correspondence to David.Derezotes@socwk.utah.edu.

**graduate student in the philosophy department at Colorado
State**

John B Thompson · Msw · Lcsw

John B. Thompson, MSW, LCSW, graduate student in the philosophy department at Colorado State University Erica Shields, PhD, Health Educator Andrea Morgan, MSW, LCSW, private practice

The battle for God: A History of fundamentalism

Jan 2001

K Armstrong

Armstrong, K. (2001). The battle for God: A History of fundamentalism. New York: Ballantine.

**The ego and the dynamic ground: A transpersonal theory of
human development**

Jan 1988

M Washburn

Washburn, M. (1988). The ego and the dynamic ground: A transpersonal theory of human development. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Spiritual Freedom. The Quest

Jan 1996 · 48-55

F Vaughn

Vaughn, F. (1996, Winter). Spiritual Freedom. The Quest, pp., 48-55.

When 2+2=5. The American scholar

Jan 2007 · 34-45

R A Orsi

Orsi, R.A. (2007). When 2+2=5. *The American scholar*, Spring, 34- 45.

Healing from violence: Latino men's journey to a new masculinity

Jan 2007

C Welland · N Ribner

Welland, C. & Ribner, N. (2007). *Healing from violence: Latino men's journey to a new masculinity*. New York: Springer Publishing.

A model of Christian maturity: An exposition of 2 Corinthians

Jan 2007

D A Carson

Carson, D.A. (2007). *A model of Christian maturity: An exposition of 2 Corinthians*. Cambridge, MA: Baker Publishing Group.

Cohort, gender, and religiosity: A comparison of three cohorts. Conference paper

Jan 2005

D A Gay

Gay, D. A. (2005). *Cohort, gender, and religiosity: A comparison of three cohorts*. Conference paper. Southern Sociological Society, Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Healing Lodge -A community faith-based response to enhancing quality of life in Southeastern North Carolina....

Jan 2005

O Murray

Murray, O. (2005). *The Healing Lodge -A community faith-based response to enhancing quality of life in Southeastern North Carolina*. Conference paper. Southern Sociological Society, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Transformations of consciousness: Conventional and contemplative perspectives on development

Jan 1986

K Wilber · J Engler · D P Brown

Wilber, K., Engler, J., & Brown, D.P. (1986). *Transformations of consciousness: Conventional and contemplative perspectives on development*. Boston: Shambhala.

An exploratory study of the relationship between gender orientation, sensation seeking, risk preference, and...

Jan 2007 · 1811

K Disponett · E Bresch

Disponett, K. & Bresch, E. (2007). *An exploratory study of the relationship between gender orientation, sensation seeking, risk preference, and spirituality*. *Dissertation Abstracts International Section A: Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol 68(5-A), pp. 1811.

[Show more](#)

Recommended publications [Discover more](#)Chapter [Full-text available](#)

Tāne's Journey to Retrieve Knowledge

January 2011

● Chellie Spiller

This story draws upon the wisdom tradition of the indigenous Maori peoples of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

[View full-text](#)

Article

Ambicultural Governance: Harmonizing Indigenous and Western Wellbeing

January 2015 · Academy of Management Proceedings

● Amber Nicholson · ● Chellie Spiller

Increasingly, the spiritual, environmental, social and cultural degradation of the modern world is being attributed to the supremacy of the self-interested, profit-oriented and individualistic market system. However, there are innovative ways to circumvent such pre-eminence. One approach is to infuse Indigenous wisdom into economic activities; business ventures, as expressions of community, can ... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

[Read more](#)

Article

Methods of Theological Reflection in the Summer Service Learning Program: Integrating Spirituality a...

November 2006 · Journal of College and Character

Andrea Smith Shappell · Notre Dame

Abstract The integration of spirituality and civic engagement is at the heart of the Summer Service Learning Program. This paper will explore how methods of theological reflection facilitate the integration of the two vital components of the theme of this conference. ... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

[Read more](#)

Article

D. Deak, "Creation of residual communities", in: Hendrik Opdebeeck, László Zsolnai (eds), Spiritual...

June 2011

● Daniel Deak

This paper introduces the term of residual communities. It seeks to explain what the structure and operation of such communities are like, and why it is proper to pay attention to such communities at the same time we are experiencing the current global financial and economic crisis. Importantly, the paper focuses on transcendentally substantiated residual communities. This means that, according ... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

[Read more](#)

Chapter

Introduction and Summary of Themes: Perspectives, Challenges and Opportunities

January 2019

Daniel E. Harris · ● Lori Holyfield · Linda Jones · [...] · Judi Neal

A few years before his death in October 2016, Prof. Andre Delbecq (University of Santa Clara) created a heuristic around "spiritually and developmentally mature leaders" in order to stimulate a more expansive understanding of leaders and leadership. He had observed that outstanding leaders often seem to draw strength and wisdom from sources that are not typically studied or taught in leadership ... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

[Read more](#)

Article

Religion, Spirituality, and Development in Adulthood

January 2009

James M. Nelson

Most religious traditions contain a rich body of wisdom about how to move beyond childhood faith to a mature religious and spiritual life (Casey, 1996, p. 59; see Section 7.2). In contrast, psychological research has tended to focus more on childhood or adolescence, and the psychological studies of adult development that do exist mostly neglect spiritual and religious issues. However, an ... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

[Read more](#)

Article

Special Issue: Spirituality in Social Service: Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Issues and Interventions-Part...

January 2012 · Journal of Social Service Research

● George Jacinto

[Read more](#)

Conference Paper

Reclamation of Faith: Queer Responses to Christian Creationist Anti-Gay Doctrines

April 2018

● Mikey Lewis

Even as secular society becomes increasingly accepting of queer lives and relationships, Christian Creationists have been at the forefront of a religious assault against them, teaching that homosexuality is an affront to God's will and therefore a grievous sin. In response, many queer people have abandoned Christianity and organized religion as a whole. However, these movements toward atheism ... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

[Read more](#)

Thesis

[Full-text available](#)

The journey from religiosity to spirituality and the impact on a woman's sexuality

February 2017

● Merie Burton

To understand the impact that spiritual growth has on a woman's sexuality, the Spiritual Experience Index-Revised (Genia, 1997) was utilised to identify five spiritually mature women. A hermeneutic phenomenological methodology was then applied by inviting participants to answer seven open-ended questions and statements in written and anonymous accounts about their sexual and spiritual journey. ... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

[View full-text](#)

Chapter

Coming Out and Being Out

November 2017

Antonio (Jay) Pastrana · Juan Battle · ● Angelique Harris

This chapter interrogates the coming out experiences of Latinx LGBT communities. Readers are introduced to Sebastián Jiménez Sánchez—a typical respondent to the Social Justice Sexuality (SJS) Project. Through his experiences readers gain insights into issues of racial and ethnic identity for LGBT people of color, practices of negotiating the “coming out” process, as well as the myriad of ... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

[Read more](#)

Article

Public Access to Research Abstracts of the Journal of the American Psychological Association

Bildung towards wisdom, through philosophical dialogue in teacher education

October 2016 · Arts and Humanities in Higher Education

Guro Hansen Helskog

In this article the author discusses the terms Bildung, wisdom, dialogue and philosophical dialogue. The author understands Bildung as the spiritual education of the soul, involving the existential growth and maturation of the individual in her relation to herself, to other people, to the world and to a possible transcendent Other. The outcome of processes involving Bildung is argued to be ... [Show full abstract]

[Read more](#)

Article

Aging as a Spiritualizing Process

November 1984 · Journal of Religion & Aging

W. Paul Jones PhD

In many cultures, the aging process is seen as a clue to spiritual wisdom. The removal of this process from sight in mainline existence in this country brings with it a loss of certain parameters in which growth in spirit can grow to maturity. This article describes eleven dimensions of this process that can help in the creation of a "new" spirituality not simply for the aging but for the rest of ... [Show full abstract]

[Read more](#)



Company

[About us](#)

[News](#)

[Careers](#)

Support

[Help Center](#)

Business solutions

[Advertising](#)

[Recruiting](#)