

Investigating Consciousness: Buddhist and Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives
An NEH Summer Institute for College and University Professors
at the College of Charleston
May 21 – June 2, 2012

Dear Colleague,

We encourage you to apply to our NEH Summer Institute, “Investigating Consciousness: Buddhist and Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives,” which will take place on the campus of the College of Charleston, in Charleston, South Carolina. We have assembled a faculty comprising some of the world’s foremost philosophers of mind, phenomenologists, philosophers of cognitive science, and specialists in Buddhist philosophy. Our website will introduce in more detail our distinguished faculty.

We especially welcome early career philosophers. We are interested in scholars working on topics in philosophy of mind, in particular those working primarily in the Western tradition who are interested in what the Buddhist tradition might have to offer, as well as those interested most specifically in Indian and Buddhist philosophy, who wish to engage with contemporary conversations in Western philosophy of mind, cognitive science and phenomenology. College and university professors of philosophy of religion, cognitive psychology, and philosophy of biology and neurobiology are also welcome to this interdisciplinary institute. We are also delighted to extend this invitation to graduate students with research and teaching interests in these areas. Applicants should be advanced doctoral students at the dissertation writing stage (a maximum of two graduate students will be admitted). We hope to assemble a philosophically diverse set of participants.

The Institute will run for two weeks (May 21 – June 2, 2012). We will begin with a welcome reception on Sunday evening, May 20, and conclude with a farewell party on Saturday evening, June 2nd. If you are accepted, we therefore recommend that you plan to arrive in Charleston on or before May 20th and that you plan to depart on or after June 3rd. Our formal sessions will begin on Monday, May 21st, at 9:30 a.m. with an orientation session for one hour, followed by the launch of our regular sessions.

On most days, morning sessions will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and afternoon sessions from 2:00 to 4:45 p.m. Each day the directors will outline the major questions and themes to be addressed during the sessions. Friday mornings will be reserved for presentations by the institute directors, including commentary on the proceedings of the previous week, and for general discussion and debate. Sessions on Thursday afternoons will be scheduled flexibly and will involve workshops and/or presentations by participants. Each week, visiting faculty will give talks, followed by discussion, or will lead thematic discussions.

In accordance with NEH guidelines, all participants are expected to offer a short presentation or a curricular proposal related in some way to the topics of the seminar, to be discussed by members of the institute. Presentations exploring new themes are especially appropriate here, as are presentations bridging Buddhist and Western philosophy of mind. We encourage collaborative

work. Working in teams comprising scholars with diverse but convergent areas of expertise, you may develop new model courses or approaches to teaching existing courses, or new research programs. We will provide space on our Institute web site for sharing all curricular materials and research within and, we hope, beyond our group.

An initial program and list of readings will be posted on our website by February 15, and should be consulted regularly for details as core faculty members settle their plans. We expect to make most reading assignments available in electronic format.

NEH Summer Scholars may wish to supplement the required and recommended readings with additional published material, whether borrowed from the campus library or purchased in advance of the Institute. For library access check the **Logistics** page on this site. Wi-Fi access will be available at the Blacklock House for all Institute participants. We will also provide additional information about cafés and other off-campus venues with Wi-Fi access.

NEH Summer Scholars are expected to attend every session of the institute and to complete all assigned readings. NEH provides \$2,100 as a taxable stipend to each person chosen to participate in this Summer Institute. Stipends are intended to help cover travel expenses to and from the project location, books and other research expenses, and living expenses for the duration of the period spent in residence. The NEH does not offer any supplementary stipend regardless of your actual costs. We will arrange on campus lodging and recommend discounted low cost restaurants to help you live within the stipend budget.

Also, please note that while NEH neither encourages nor discourages family members from traveling with the Summer Scholar, all costs for family members must be borne personally, and NEH does not permit family members to participate in the Institute sessions. We will have some opportunities for social gatherings at which your friends and families are welcome.

If you prefer to arrange your own accommodation, we recommend that you stay close to the Blacklock House at 18 Bull Street. In any case, you should make housing arrangements as soon as you know you have been selected as an NEH Summer Scholar, as the Spoleto Festival USA, which takes place in May-June, will make accommodation in Charleston expensive and difficult to find.

Please check the **How to Apply** page on our Institute website for details of the application procedure.

Over the next months we will be continually updating our website:

<http://coseruc.people.cofc.edu/investigatingconsciousness/>. If you have additional questions, please contact Christian Coseru by email (coseruc@cofc.edu).

Sincerely,

Christian Coseru
Jay Garfield
Evan Thompson
NEH Summer Institute Directors

Christian Coseru

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
College of Charleston
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424

Jay L. Garfield

Doris Silbert Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
Dewey Hall II
Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063

Evan Thompson

Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
170 St. George Street
Toronto, ON M5R 2M8

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