



# The Channeling Phenomenon: A Multi-Methodological Assessment

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# Overview

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- Appendix 2: What are the Core Elements of AQAL-5 IMP?
- Questions?



# Multidisciplinary Background

- Music Composition (Art)
  - Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
- Science Education (Science)
  - The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- Integral Spirituality (Morals)
  - NewWorldView (Wildfire Media) Castaic, CA



# Abstract

AQAL-5, the fifth iteration of Ken Wilber's Integral metatheory to date, consists of an Integral Operating System (IOS), Integral Post-Metaphysics (IPM), Integral Methodological Pluralism (IMP), and Integral Life Practice (ILP).

Within this context, I hypothesize that channeling functions as one of multiple human intelligences, per Howard Gardner, and developmental lines, per Wilber. As such, channeling may be a universal human intelligence that develops through state-stages and/or structure-stages.

Also, it may be more than just a "talent line" since it deals with complex relationships in brain function (i.e., modules) between multiple intelligences, subpersonalities, dissociative states, amnesia, and gross, subtle, and causal (UR) bodies, (UL) states, and (UL) lines.

This paper outlines a pilot research program (Phases 1 & 2) to study these hypotheses via AQAL-5 IMP.

# Introduction: Historical Perspectives

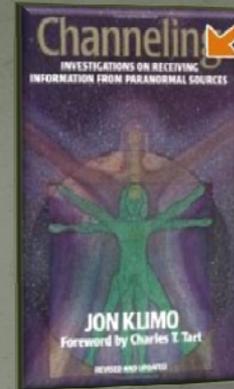
- Since 14<sup>th</sup> century BCE written evidence of:
  - Prophecy, oracle, revelation, spiritual communication, possession, and the inspiration of the muses (Transpersonal Psychologist Arthur Hastings)
- The above traditions/roles are with us today:
  - Anthropologist Michael Brown (quote)
  - Transpersonal Psychologist Jon Klimo (quote)
- Evidence of a natural, dissociative “intelligence” has been with us for thousands of years.
- The need for an integral approach:
  - Author Aldous Huxley (quote)
  - Ken Wilber – AQAL-5 is a radically new way to study *anything*, in this case the channeling phenomenon
  - Stratified lens of second-tier perspectives

# Stratified Definitions: What is Channeling?

- **AMBER** – Speaking in tongues (e.g., glossolalia), demonic and spirit possession (e.g., Christian traditions), mind treasure (e.g., Buddhist terton tradition).
- **ORANGE** – Dissociative disorders (e.g., Dissociative Identity Disorder).
- **GREEN** – Gross/subtle realm “entity” interaction (e.g., Madame Blavatsky/The Tibetan, Jane Roberts/Seth).
- **TEAL** – Stratified definitions (e.g., the previous three altitudes understood as *varieties* of states-stages in the Wilber-Combs Lattice).
- **TURQUOISE** – Enhanced stratified definitions (e.g., including an AQAL-5 perspective of gross/subtle/causal-body/state/line interaction).



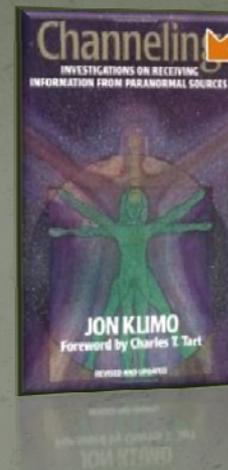
# Jon Klimo's Taxonomy



- Overview:
  - Spontaneous and intentional volition.
  - Mental (guidance, growth) and physical (communication, healing, painting, music).
  - Entity (strong dissociation, secondary proximate self) and open (mild dissociation, enhanced creativity).
- Types of channeling:
  - Conscious (intuitive, telepathy, clairaudience, clairvoyance, clairsentience).
  - Unconscious full-trance, possession.
  - Sleep and dream.
  - Automism (a variant of conscious, but includes kinesthetic expressions of automatic writing, Ouija board movement, pendulum movement).

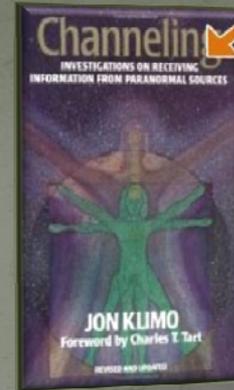
# Jon Klimo's Taxonomy

- Types of channelers:
  - Gertrude Schmeidler's personality criteria for psychic ability.
- Types of Sources (secondary persona):
  - Discarnate spirits of "deceased" human beings (the largest category).
  - Past-lifetimes.
  - Advanced human beings (e.g., highly evolved spiritual teachers).
  - Non-humans (e.g., "aliens," spirit beings, angels, gods, archetypal energies, akashic, higher self).



# Jon Klimo's Taxonomy

- Types of channeled content:
  - General intuitive feelings of loving presence and support.
  - Personal messages and guidance.
  - Detailed descriptions of an “afterlife.”
  - Information about the past and future.
  - Artistic material (e.g., literature, painting, music performance and composition).
  - Healing and medical material (e.g., Edgar Cayce).
  - Scientific or technical nature.



# Definition & Hypotheses

- *Channeling is a spectrum of dissociative states that develop over time in discrete stages, similar to the multiple intelligences (MI) defined by Gardner and developmental lines (streams) defined by Wilber.*
- *In its mild form, the dissociative state is more like an enhanced creativity which can be applied to any field (e.g. writing, music, art, engineering, healing).*
- *In its more extreme form, the dissociative state includes fully formed secondary proximate selves that offer knowledge well beyond the current capacity of the primary proximate self.*
- *Accessing and maintaining this state at will is characteristic of a later, mature stage.*



# Health & Pathology

- *An individual, the primary proximate self, who willfully engages dissociative states and even fully formed secondary proximate selves, may be considered healthy as long as they access and end the state at will, and show no signs prolonged physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual dysfunction in culturally appropriate ways.*
- *In other words, the use of dissociative states for personal healing (body, mental, and spiritual therapia) is also considered a sign of good health.*



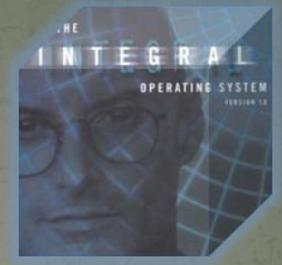
# Dissociative Disorders



- *American Psychiatric Association (APA)*
  - Dissociative amnesia
  - Dissociative fugue
  - Dissociative identity disorder
  - Depersonalization disorder
- *International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD)*
  - Depersonalization
  - Derealization
  - Amnesia
  - Identity confusion
  - Identity alteration

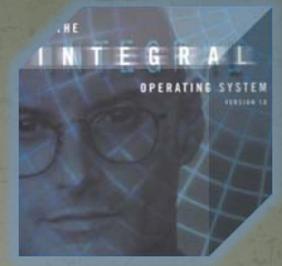


# Using AQAL-5 Ontology to Model Channeling as a Line



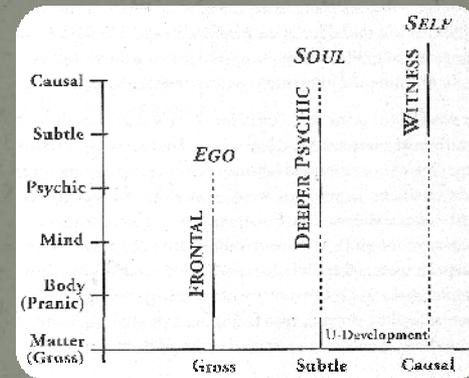
- Simultaneous low, medium, and high development.
- Kohlberg's 25% in one level, 50% in the next highest, and 25% in the next highest.
  - Center of gravity in the 50%, but we may engage the preceding and emerging 25% as well!
- *linear* basic and transitional structures ("ladder"), and *nonlinear* streaming ("view") through them by the self-system ("climber").
- Each "step" or level is a "probability wave."
- Three main kinds of lines:
  - *Cognitive lines* (e.g., Piaget, Kegan, which also overlap with basic structure/levels and provide a "necessary but not sufficient" anchor for most lines)
  - *Self-related lines* (e.g., morals, self-identity, needs, etc.)
  - *Capacities or talent lines* (e.g., musical, linguistic, mathematic, kinesthetic, etc.)

# Using AQAL-5 Ontology to Model Channeling as a Line



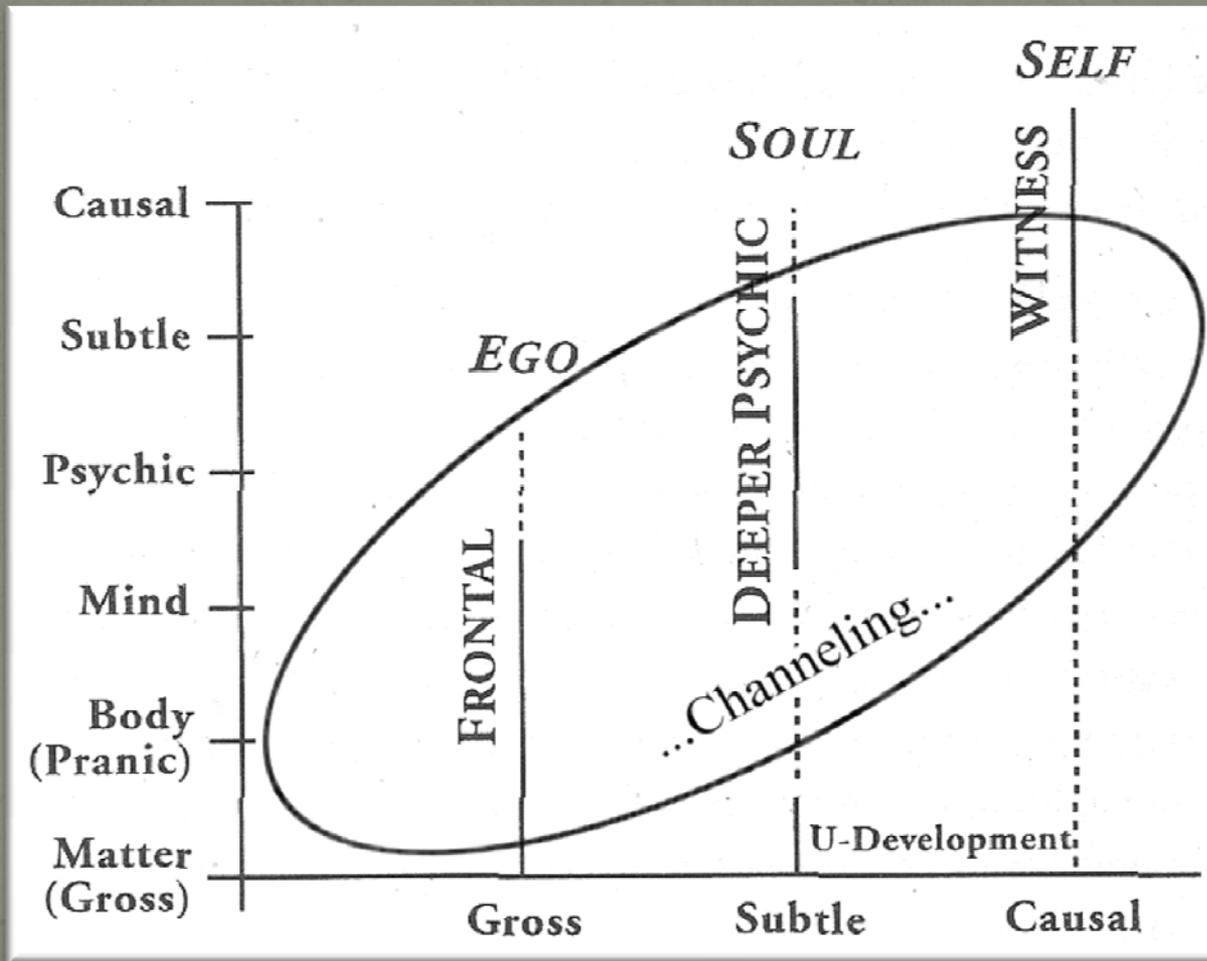
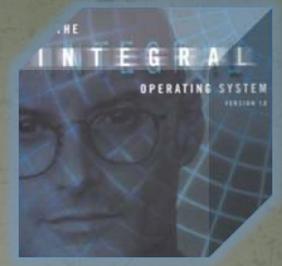
- Thirty different lines listed in various Wilber sources!
- Wilber includes the following to model *self-related lines* (morals, self-identity, needs, etc.):

- *Frontal* (Ego)
- *Deep Psychic* (Soul)
- *Witness* (Self)
- *Nondual* (not really a line, but the “Ground & Goal” of all lines)

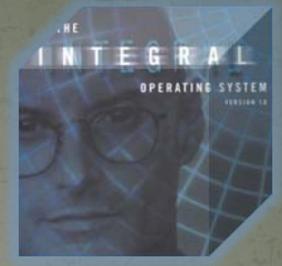


- The thirty lines referenced above deal with ONLY the frontal self!
- There is precious little research on Soul and Self lines!
  - Why? Because no one has ever been able to model it in this way until AQAL-4!
  - Crucial role of ILP (integral life practice) to model and research at a TURQUOISE altitude.

# Using AQAL-5 Ontology to Model Channeling as a Line



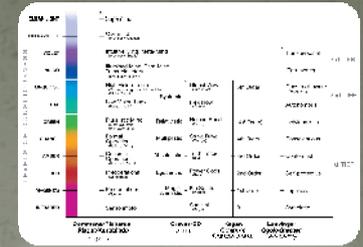
# Using AQAL-5 Ontology to Model Channeling as a Line



## *New Hypothesis:*

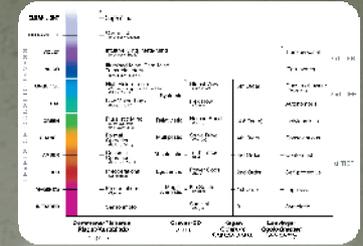
- *Channeling is an (UL) intelligence, which may include a fully formed secondary proximate self that allows soul and self lines to merge and be expressed through the frontal proximate self line via state-structures and, to some extent, stage-structures.*
- *As such, there are (UR) brain modules, (LL) cultural values systems, and (LR) social systems that facilitate and support this.*

# MI Theory: Channeling as a Developmental Line



- Howard Gardner, multidisciplinary psychologist at Harvard
  - Focus on neurology, biology, sociology, anthropology, arts, and humanities.
  - Intelligence defined as “...a biopsychological [UL/UR] potential to process information that can be activated in a cultural setting [LL] to solve problems or create products that are of value [LR] in a culture.”
  - Neurological approach = *modularity* based primarily on deficits, pathology, or injury.

# MI Theory: Channeling as a Developmental Line



- Gardner's eight criteria for defining a MI:
  - **Biological Sciences:**
    - The potential of isolation by brain damage. [UR]
    - An evolutionary history and evolutionary plausibility. [LL/LR]]
  - **Logical Analysis:**
    - An identifiable core operation or set of operations. [UR]
    - Susceptibility to encoding in a symbol system. [UR]
  - **Developmental Psychology:**
    - A distinct developmental history, along with a definable set of “end-state” performances. [UR/LR]
    - The existence of idiot savants, prodigies, and other exceptional people. [LR]
  - **Traditional Psychology:**
    - Support from experimental psychological tasks. [UR]
    - Support from psychometric findings. [UR]

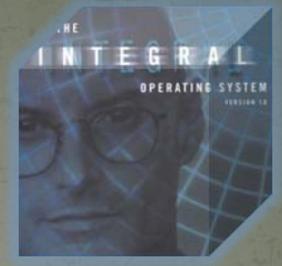
# MI Theory: Channeling as a Developmental Line

Channel	Color	Strength	Developmental Line
Logical-mathematical	Blue	High	Logical-mathematical
Spatial	Green	Medium	Spatial
Bodily-kinesthetic	Yellow	Low	Bodily-kinesthetic
Musical	Orange	Low	Musical
Linguistic	Red	Low	Linguistic
Interpersonal	Purple	Low	Interpersonal
Intrapersonal	Pink	Low	Intrapersonal

- *Frames of Mind* (1983)
  - Logical-mathematical
  - Spatial
  - Bodily-kinesthetic
  - Musical
  - Linguistic
  - Interpersonal
  - Intrapersonal
- *Intelligence Reframed* (1999)
  - Naturalist
  - Spiritual
  - Existential
  - Moral

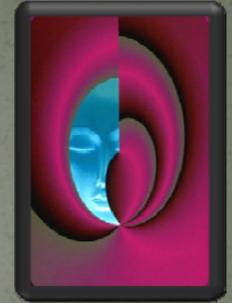


# Applying AQAL-5 to MI Theory: Broadening the Scope



- Gardner does not call out an emotional MI, blends it with several of the previous.
- Gardner emphasizes Right-Hand Quadrants = subtle reductionism.
- Amoral nature of intelligences in relation to Wilber's BMI (basic moral intuition). Goebels/Goethe example of language use...
- Channeling - an anomaly not explainable by MI Theory alone.
- Employ Wilber's AQAL-5 framework to better situate the "true but partial" nature of Gardner's work.

# Phase 1



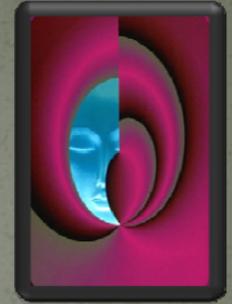
- AQAL-5 Paradox – few, if any, precedents:
  - Getting Started – take an integrally informed approach to all quadrant methodologies we have expertise in.
  - Seek outside help via collaboration with advisors and experts in complementary quadrants.
  - Fit into budget constraints.
- Phase 1 Emphasis = determine the relationship of (UL) states and stages in relation to health and pathology (e.g., dissociative disorders) and (UR) neurological function.
- Secondary emphasis on (LL/LR) ethnographic elements to balance out the quadrants.

# Phase 1



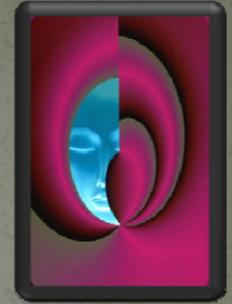
- Apply AQAL-5 IMP to *include, enact, and enfold* the previous:
  - Klimo's research agenda (1988!) as point of departure:
    - Emphasis on quadrants, states, and types
  - Add structuralist/constructivist approach to include *levels* and *lines*. Important!
  - Reduce pre/trans errors that confuse pathological dissociation with authentic transpersonal, transrational states & stages.
  - Reduce category errors made by using the wrong “eye of knowing” to adequately interpret phenomena beyond its capacity.
  - Refute the “myth of the given.”

# Phase 1



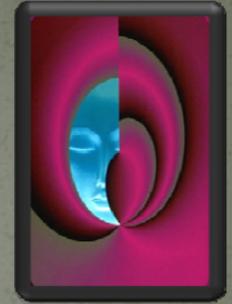
- Option 1 – Based on Science Learning Network model (1993-1996 at The Franklin Institute Science Museum)
- \$5 million budget for five year longitudinal study of 50 subjects (25 channelers/25 “normal” as control group)
  1. Work with Integral Research Center (IRC) to form advisory committee and insure project feasibility and AQLA-5 IMP compliance.
  2. Form Integral Research Collaborative (IRC) – meshwork of multidisciplinary scholars that cover key perspectives and methods (zones 1-8).
  3. If major scholars are not available, solicit senior students.
  4. Outline scope of work, subcontract, and manage collaborative process.
- Key = An “Integral Czar” must manage the process!

# Phase 1



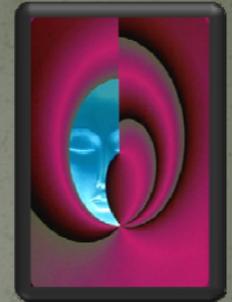
- AQAL-5 IMP – at a minimum cover all four quadrants
  - Emphasis on the psychograph/lines (UL).
  - Neurochemistry/theology (UR).
  - Secondary emphasis on cultural and social anthropology (LL/LR) for all channeler and control holons.
  - *Developmental structuralism* will map the complex relationships of states and stages between (UL) lines.
  - *Neurochemical/theological empiricism* will provide key (UR) data to help discern the relationship of states and stages.
  - *Anthropological ethnography* will situate key (LL/LR) factors.

# Phase 1



- *Zone 1* methods include phenomenological reports:
  - Journaling (including dream work).
- *Zone 2* methods include integral psychographs (e.g., cognitive, self, interpersonal, moral, values, linguistic, and needs lines). Exemplars include:
  - Gardner's instruments (linguistic, interpersonal, intrapersonal).
  - Values Test, Change State Indicator, and Culture Scan: developed by Beck & Cowan (values).
  - SCTi (Integral Sentence Completion Test) developed by Jane Loevinger and Susann Cook-Greuter (proximate self).

# Phase 1



- *Zone 4/8* methods include anthropological ethnography to explore how effective channelers communicate and effect the creation of moral social holons (Zone 4), and relation to how they make a living, produce marketable artifacts, contend with legal issues, etc. (Zone 8). Exemplars include:
  - Fieldwork including direct observation of daily behavior, informal and formal interviews, genealogy, etc.
- *Zone 6* methods include physiological and neurological tests to determine onset, duration, and closure of all states and stages during channeling sessions. Exemplars include:
  - PET, fMRI, CAT, EEG imaging.
  - Measuring galvanic skin response, blood pressure, heart rate, blood chemistry, neurochemistry, respiratory system, muscle tension.



# Conclusion: Phase 1 Goals

- Test efficacy of AQAL-5 IMP and IOS to model human consciousness:
  - explore the relationships between multiple intelligences (MI), subpersonalities, self-related lines, and healthy/pathological dissociative states in relation to the channeler holon via states/stages and levels/lines (UL), body/brain function (UR), cultural values (LL), and functional fit (LR).
- Identify key (UL/UR) relationships between cognitive lines (primary and secondary proximate selves), self lines (nested gross, subtle and causal lines), and talent lines (artistic impact) with primary and secondary proximate selves. That is, does overall vertical growth and center of gravity (COG) favor one or certain combinations over others?

# Conclusion: Phase 1 Goals

- Test the (UL) impact of how gross, subtle, and causal lines may promote vertical growth in other lines, and COG in channeler and control holons (e.g., Maslow's needs hierarchy moves toward self-actualization, Genpo Roshi's "integrated free-functioning human being," Cook-Greuter's autonomous, integrated, etc. stages).
- Identify psychotherapeutic applications to the channeler holon (e.g., self-healing) as well as social holons that include body, mental, and spiritual healing (e.g., Edgar Cayce archives).

# Conclusion: Phase 2 Goals

- Continue to refine research on lines, and expand into *quadrants, levels, lines, states, and types'* relationships between primary and secondary proximate selves.
- Outline stratified, culturally appropriate maps and practices to apply channeling to:
  1. Human potentials (e.g., problem solving, creativity, invention, artistic expression, and transformation).
  2. Meaning making (e.g., who we are, why we are here, what is our purpose, and where are we going?).
  3. Psychotherapy (e.g., self-healing and integral medicine).
  4. Private practice (e.g., small business, integral life coaching).

# Challenges to AQAL-5 IMP

- Funding Sources – very few exist today.
- Politics of Paradigm “Wars” in Academia and Commercial Sector (potential sponsors).
  - AQAL-5 can NOT be imposed on others, but it can be used to manage first- and second-tier research partners via skillful means.
- We need a viable Integral Research Center (IRC)!
  - Advisory capacity
  - Repository of “best practices”
  - Establish and enforce standards
  - Prioritize & allocate funding
- Integral Theory Needs Cogent, Constructive Critiques!
  - Stage Inflation (particularly at “top” stages)
  - The Politics of Researcher Simultracking (psychographs)
  - Where’s My Psychograph!?

# Summary: Focal Points

1. One way to apply AQAL-5 IMP to ANYTHING, in this case the channeling phenomenon.
  - Large scale collaboratives (Testbeds) ↔ smaller teams of scholar/practitioners (the journey of 1,000 miles continues one step at a time...).
  - Have a Long Term Vision (Phase 1, Phase 2...)
2. A Radically New Way to Model Lines (Frontal/Soul/Self)
  - Channeling as a Developmental Line that unfolds in State-Stages and/or Structure-Stages (UL) in relation to Brain Modules (UR), Cultural (LL), & Social (LR) Roles.
3. Grok the **TURQUOISE** relationships between IOS, IMP, IPM, & ILP:
  - A Post-postmodern Science of unprecedented scope!



# Questions?



# Appendix 2: What are the Core Elements of AQAL-5 IMP?

- A map of *being* (ontology) and *knowing* (epistemology), and a method or *doing* called Integral Methodological Pluralism (IMP):
  1. Paradigmatic practices (*nonexclusion*).
  2. Meta-paradigmatic practices (*enactment, enfoldment*).
  3. Epistemology – three modes or “eyes” of knowing: *sensorimotor* (physical senses), *reason* (mental senses), *deep intuition* (inner senses).
  4. The three core strands of scientific method to generate valid data:
    - Design an injunction/paradigm.
    - Do the experiment/create data.
    - Interpret/verify-falsify within a community adequate to steps one and two.
  5. The nonlinear relationship between scientific hypothesis, theory, and law = *nonlinear* relationships.

# Metaphysical Assumptions in AQAL-5 Integral Post-Metaphysics

1. *Eros (evolution, ascending current, masculine/yin).*
2. *Agape (involution, descending current, feminine/yang).*
3. *A morphogenetic gradient, a “field of potentials, defined not by their fixed contents and forms but by their relative placement in the sliding field.”*
4. *Prototypical forms or patterns, such as the twenty or so tenets of all holons (i.e., “blueprints for reality”).*

