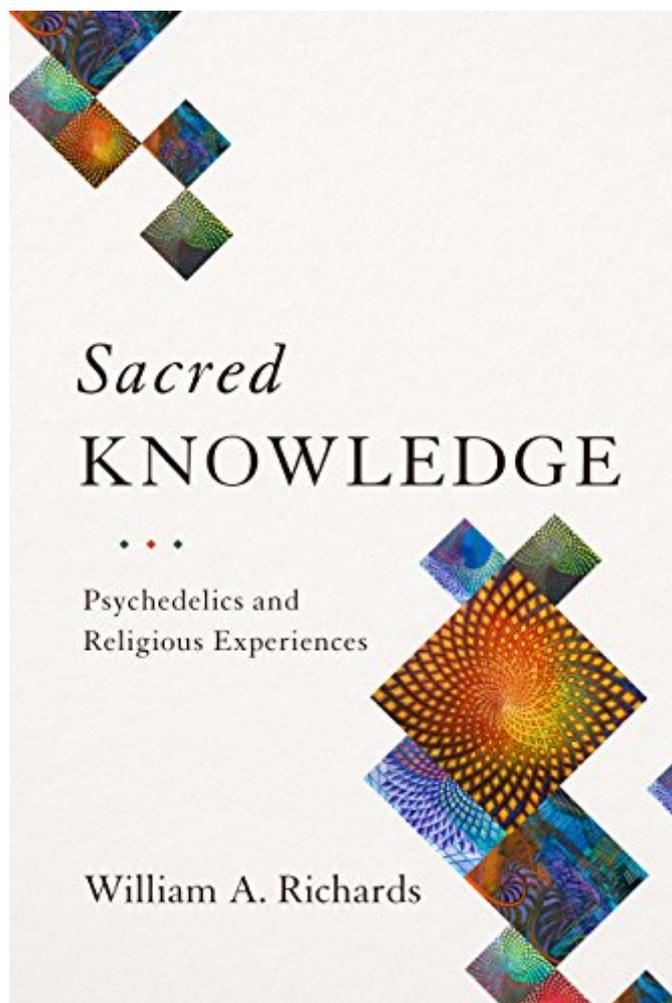


The book was found

# Sacred Knowledge: Psychedelics And Religious Experiences



## Synopsis

In the early 1960s, scientists openly advocated for experimentation with psychedelics. This effort, however, quickly turned into a discredited enterprise involving recreational drug use. But what if a study of psychedelics was undertaken with trusted scientific rigor? William A. Richards does just that in *Sacred Knowledge*, the first well-documented, sophisticated account of the effect of psychedelics on biological processes, human consciousness, and revelatory religious experiences. Richards argues that, if used responsibly and legally, psychedelics have incredible potential to assuage human suffering and constructively contribute to the quality of life on our planet. His work is based on nearly three decades of legal research with volunteers aged twenty-four to eighty-one. *Sacred Knowledge* enriches humanities and scientific scholarship, expanding work in philosophy, anthropology, theology, and religious studies, as well as in mental health, psychotherapy, and psychopharmacology. Richards's analysis also contributes to social and political debates over the responsible integration of psychedelic substances into modern society. His book is an invaluable resource for readers who, whether spontaneously or with the facilitation of psychedelics, have encountered meaningful, inspiring, or even disturbing states of consciousness and seek clarity about their experiences. Testing the limits of language and conceptual frameworks, Richards makes the most of experiential phenomena that stretch our concepts of reality and advances new frontiers in the study of belief, spiritual awakening, psychiatric treatment, and social well-being.

## Book Information

File Size: 447 KB

Print Length: 280 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0231174063

Publisher: Columbia University Press (December 8, 2015)

Publication Date: December 8, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0175P7PP0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #375,079 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #38 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Counseling & Psychology > Psychopharmacology #76 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Counseling & Psychology > Experimental Psychology #130 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Psychopharmacology

## Customer Reviews

This is an incredible book. It describes how a variety of mind-influencing substances, many used by indigenous peoples or in sacred activities, can inspire awe about the universe and transform a person's life. Dr. Richards is extremely knowledgeable about both the sacred and the profane effects. The book is based on extensive, legitimate clinical research in a variety of settings. He discusses a variety of therapeutic and educational uses at great length. I was particularly moved by use of these substances in hospice care at the end of life, and to help individuals with cancer and other major conditions better deal with existential issues.

Books about sacredness (enlightenment) and psychedelics have been and will continue to be published. Very interesting net site discussions will continue to emerge regarding the same subject matter. At the present time, this book is among the most significant. Among other things, it contains the latest information about an historic research with the terminally ill started in Maryland by Stanislav Grof and if its important "midterm dormant years" is included, it covers about 50 years of the most interesting research done within the field of consciousness. Richards keeps theory aptly simple but tight and real. A paradigm shift, writes Richard and he brings another way into clinical research that takes the field of consciousness to its proper home-base. Richard incorporates Pahnke's 1963 characters of mystical experiences using classical Jungian ideas and the concept of affirmative experiential intuitive knowledge within a world view (Weltanschauung) comprehensive of equal intelligent spiritual sacredness at the chore of all religions, among other thoughts. It is a way (theory) about transpersonal unity and love, yes, but also about human compassion and other important indescribable states of consciousness. It is about something increasingly ignored today by our modern DSM mental health way. That it is a way; is, and if ignored by any traditional field of study because it creates too much emotional controversy, then it may just be that the study of the ineffable doesn't belong to that field. Richard opens the narrow professional window by suggesting a formal experientially based training available to a wider range of fields: religious professionals, interested informed researchers and those within the mental health field.

Instead of Tuning In and Dropping Out, Sacred Knowledge by Williams takes a good long look at Tuning In and Staying In by riding the wave of a serious mushroom trip. Decades ago, when such study was possible, he began to study of the healing aspects of psychedelics, mostly the active ingredient in mushrooms, but also other similar drugs. He advocates further study in how these chemicals can aid in mental illness, addiction and spiritual growth and exploration. He isn't suggesting a weekend high, but a guided trip through the conscious with the goal of working with and through the images and sensations presented in the presence of a trainer guide. The intersection of faith and the sacred, psychedelics, science and psychology is fascinating. I really enjoyed the book and have already recommended it to several people. It is well annotated and there is a fine endnotes section. Publish date 12/8/15 An honest review in exchange for an ARC via netgalley.com

12/3/15 www.netgalley.com www.meesh-stuff@tumblr.com www.goodreads.com www..com www.facebook.com www.linkedin.com

Based upon decades of rigorous scientific research and careful consideration of how to safely approach the use of entheogens in the study of consciousness, William Richards summarizes a path forward that is at once intensely bold and deeply responsible. Richards refuses to use hyperbole when discussing the promises of this research or devaluation when discussing the policies that currently stand in the way of these promises. This capacity for deep respect is, in itself, a testament to the learning he describes through his own journey of the past five decades. This is the book I've been waiting for - a concise summary of research and new options that I hope will become required reading in the field of psychology and the study of religion. His even-handed approach is precisely what is needed to diffuse the hysteria currently surrounding the consideration of entheogens. Richards clearly believes a door is available for yet another significant paradigm shift akin to the dawning recognition that the earth isn't flat. His contention, throughout the book, is that ways now exist for the responsible study of that doorway and safe protocols are fully available for our entering and returning through it. As he makes clear, the danger considering this journey isn't that we would risk taking it, but rather that - as a culture - we might refuse to adequately consider it. With huge respect and gratitude for this author and his colleagues. I can only hope this book will find the wide readership it deserves.

Richards, a now retired professor, has written his vade mecum on psychedelics, chemical

stimulants and the history of a variety of psychological-social experiments, some of which hold hope for curative sessions with the psychically wounded. The field is not without its doubters and government intervention (for governmentâ™s purposes) is not particularly laudatory. He writes from the background of psychotherapy, theology and comparative religionâ |a broad range indeed. To those who are caregivers this is a good book to keep on your reference shelf. He writes clearly, dispassionately (some may dispute this) and appears to have no hidden agenda. I received an electronic copy in return for an honest review.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Sacred Knowledge: Psychedelics and Religious Experiences Religious Therapeutics: Body and Health in Yoga, Ayurveda, and Tantra (SUNY Series in Religious Studies) (Suny Series, Religious Studies) Organising Knowledge: Taxonomies, Knowledge and Organisational Effectiveness (Chandos Knowledge Management) Spirituality in the Flesh: Bodily Sources of Religious Experiences Books of Breathing and Related Texts -Late Egyptian Religious Texts in the British Museum Vol.1 (Catalogue of the Books of the Dead and Other Religious Texts in the British Museum) DMT: The Truth About Dimethyltryptamine: The Ultimate Beginner's Guide To A Revolutionary Compound And Its Full Effects (DMT, Psychedelics, Ayahuasca) Psychedelics: The Truth About Psychedelic Drugs: An Introductory Guide to Ayahuasca, LSD (Acid), DMT, Entheogens, And The Full Effects Dreaming Wide Awake: Lucid Dreaming, Shamanic Healing, and Psychedelics Sex, Drugs, Einstein & Elves: Sushi, Psychedelics, Parallel Universes and the Quest for Transcendence Psychedelics Confucius: The Secular as Sacred (Religious Traditions of the World) The Evidence for God: Religious Knowledge Reexamined Knowledge Development in Nursing: Theory and Process, 9e (Chinn, Integrated Theory and Knowledge Development in Nursing) The Traveller's Guide to Sacred Scotland: A Guide to the Legends, Lore and Landscape of Scotland's Sacred Places (Traveller's Guides) Sacred Solos: Level 1, Book & CD (Schaum Publications Sacred Solos) The Sacred: Ways of Knowledge Sources of Life Knowledge Stew: The Guide to the Most Interesting Facts in the World, Volume 1 (Knowledge Stew Guides) Oku: Sports Medicine 3: Orthopaedic Knowledge Update (Orthopedic Knowledge Update) Foundations of Museum Studies: Evolving Systems of Knowledge: Evolving Systems of Knowledge Sacred Grids: Creating Crystal Grids with Sacred Geometry

[Dmca](#)