

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is with the deepest sorrow that I announce the passing of Dr. Michael A. Thalbourne (see Obituaries, pp. 86-95). Michael is sadly missed by family, friends and colleagues. The editorial board and our panel of specialist consultants dedicate this issue to the memory of Michael, our long-time friend and colleague.

In a timely and coincidental manner often characteristic of Michael, this special issue features two articles from his pen. At the start of a brand new decade, Dr. Thalbourne treats us with a timely and comprehensive review of psychological and parapsychological studies that have featured his Australian Sheep-Goat Scale. Dr. Thalbourne was one of a dedicated group of researchers who recognised the importance of maintaining ties between psychology and parapsychology. In fact, many would agree that his considerable work in both fields was unrivalled in terms of output and gains made in our understanding of the relationship between psi and psychological processes.

Next follows a study by Dr. Adam Rock and myself. This paper is the second and final instalment of our shamanic-like journeying research in which we featured *imagery cultivation* as an alternative to the Ganzfeld condition. While it is early days, we consider our imagery cultivation design to be operationally simpler than the Ganzfeld design with the advantage thus far of yielding a psi effect comparable to the latter. We hope that interest in our *imagery cultivation* paradigm catches on in the parapsychological community.

Michael Thalbourne closes this special issue with a theoretical review of a psychological construct close to Michael's heart—his concept of transliminality (a term he used to describe psychological material crossing into and out of consciousness). Dr. Thalbourne argues that transliminality is a “fundamental mechanism” involved in psychological and parapsychological processes.

Without doubt Michael's legacy continues to live on in the two papers that bracket this issue which we might call Michael's ‘swan-song’ edition. We extend our deepest sympathies to Michael's family, friends, and colleagues, and wish our readers a very productive 2010.

—LANCE STORM