

Editorial: HER Special Issue “Engaging with Meditative Inquiry in Teaching, Learning, and Research”

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Abstract

An introduction to the Holistic Education Review’s 2023 Special issue featuring contributions from Ashwani Kumar and proceedings from the 2022 “Engaging with Meditative Inquiry in Teaching, Learning, and Research” conference.

Keywords: *meditative inquiry, dialogue, holistic education, Holistic Education Review,*

It is with a sense of great honor and reverence that the *Holistic Education Review* welcomes you to engage with a very special issue of our journal. During the past three years, *HER* has had the pleasure of coming into deep awareness of scholars and practitioners who are organizing their work around the field of holistic education. Some of these folks have served as *HER* staff members, authors, peer reviewers, Trustees, and Advisory Board Members... and then there is Ashwani...

Dr. Ashwani Kumar joined the *HER* Advisory Board at the journal’s re-launch in 2021. At that point, I began my dive into his brilliant work on meditative inquiry (M.I.). As this name implies, an M.I. approach to education, to music, to medicine, and to life, is one of deep presencing, deep connecting

and deep being. For more than ten years, Dr. Kumar has explored and developed the theory and practice of meditative inquiry. In 2022, this work culminated with the publishing of a beautiful book with Routledge, *Engaging with Meditative Inquiry in Teaching, Learning, and Research: Realizing Transformative Potentials in Diverse Contexts*. With this book, many of us got our first glimpse into the great diversity of disciplines and practices that are finding M.I. to be a profound and transformative tool and way of being.

After the publishing of the book, Ashwani convened a conference where many of us in attendance shared even more diverse, powerful and unique applications for Meditative Inquiry. And now, with great pride, I am humbled to bring

these conference proceedings forward to you, the *HER* readers. In addition to the conference proceedings, this issue also includes the transcript from a conversation between Dr. Kumar and esteemed curriculum scholar Dr. William Pinar, as well as a dialogue between Dr. Kumar and three of his graduate students as they reflect on a graduate seminar.

I encourage you to take your time with the conference proceedings and articles in this collection. As you peruse the content of this very special issue, I believe you will find yourself developing an intuitive understanding of meditative inquiry; an appreciation for its importance for us all will begin to seep into your mind, body and spirit. Like an ancient tree, send your taproot down, and allow the wisdom you find to circulate through your cells and permeate your very being. We are so grateful to Dr. Ashwani Kumar for his profound work. *HER* is humbled to be entrusted with the responsibility of being the conduit through which this work may reach you now.

Take a deep breath... let it out slowly... Now another... and now... enjoy your journey.

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