

2010 School Seminar Series

Waikato Management School
Te Raupapa



Explorations and Applications of Consciousness, Worldview and Transformation

Monday, 18 October 2010
7.30pm – 8.30pm
MSB.1.05

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Abstract:

For nearly four decades, the Institute of Noetic Sciences has engaged in research on consciousness and worldview. We define worldview as one aspect of consciousness – a general way of viewing the individual, social and environmental dimensions of life. A person's worldview is shaped by their inherent characteristics and life experiences, including such factors as culture, religion, region and socioeconomic status.

There are philosophical, cultural and psychological dimensions to worldview – all of which mediate the ongoing conversation between a person's internal world and external environment. Since 1997, our team of researchers has actively investigated the processes by which people develop their consciousness and expand their worldviews in ways that invite them to be more balanced, compassionate, able to hold complexity, cognitively flexible, and oriented toward prosociability. Our research to date suggests that the most powerful change one can make, the change from which all changes spring, is the gaining of a new perspective – a metacognitive awareness of how one's own worldview affects their perceptions and actions. Amidst the demands of ever-increasing cultural diversity and social complexity, and inspired by converging evidence from multiple disciplines, the Institute now seeks to translate the fruits of our research into an educational curriculum that fosters awareness of worldview and prepares students to be powerful 21st century leaders.

Presenter: Dr Marilyn Schlitz