

Dear colleagues, dear creative arts therapists-in-training, dear creative arts therapy practitioners,

We would like to introduce our research project **“Creative Arts Therapies and Spirituality”** and invite you to support us filling out the anonym online survey – and to forward it to your colleagues.

The project **“Creative Arts Therapies and Spirituality”** was born in December 2020 at a meeting of the Artistic Therapies and Spirituality working group, Prof Dr Arndt Büssing, Prof. Dr Alexandra Hopf, Prof Johannes Junker (Details, see below).

The aim of this initiative is to obtain information about the importance and the influence of spirituality both in the context of the creative arts therapies and in your private life concerns, too. There are in fact different perceptions, attitudes and behaviors related to the complex construct of spirituality. Not all need to agree with their own views.

Filling out the questionnaire will take about 20 minutes. For this survey we consider as artistic therapies the following: drama therapy, music therapy, dance movement therapy, art therapy, intermedial art therapy, expressive arts therapy, poetry therapy and other forms of therapy that use artistic media in therapeutic contexts. The survey addresses the individual student’s, teacher’s and therapist’s attitude towards spirituality and the influence of spirituality on the artistic therapies professional reality.

For a start, the focus is on spirituality in the treatment context of seriously and chronically ill patients. It appears that the topic gets little attention in the creative arts therapies discourse. Neither is it a feature in the curricula of study and training programs for any of the creative arts therapies.

With this study, we would like to find out to what extend these observations can be reflected, modified, or even negated by practitioners of artistic therapies. The results can lead to an explicit inclusion of the topic in the practice of artistic therapies, but also to changed perspectives on curriculums of artistic therapy courses.

It would be wonderful if you could fill out this questionnaire yourself, and further forward both the letter and the link to colleagues and communities, multipliers, relevant working groups and associations of artistic therapies. The questionnaire is available in german and English so that the questionnaire can be filled in Europe-wide and beyond (German: <https://limesurvey.uni-wh.de/index.php/169427?lang=de>, English: <https://limesurvey.uni-wh.de/index.php/169427?lang=en>).

We appreciate your support of this project!

Kind regards,

Arndt Büssing, Alexandra Hopf, Johannes Junker

Short Bios

Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing, professorship for Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping at the University of Witten/Herdecke. One of his main areas of research is the transdisciplinary research of complex relationships with regards to spirituality and its relevance as a resource in difficult life events.

Prof. Dr. Alexandra Hopf, professor for Art Therapy and head of the postgraduate diploma course at the Dresden University of Fine Arts. Her art therapeutic research focuses on artistic research and performative body and practice-related forms of knowledge as well as on phenomenological perspectives in art therapy.

Prof. Johannes Junker, theologian, philosopher and drama therapist, dean of studies and professor for Drama Therapy at the University for Environment and Economics Nürtingen-Geislingen deals as a senate representative and as a lecturer with the topic of ethics in drama therapy.