Required and Recommended Textbooks for 2022

Certificate Program in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies and Research

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Note: Program instructors will require additional articles and/or book chapters for their particular classes. Those class readings will all be available on the CIIS online course platform several weeks before each presentation.

Required Readings for Entire Course

These six textbooks and one article are assigned for all trainees as broad-based, foundational readings for the entire certificate program in 2022. Before the first class weekend, trainees will read the first half of the book by William Richards (Sacred Knowledge: Psychedelics and Religious Experience: Ch. 1-9); the journal article Developing Guidelines and Competencies for the Training of Psychedelic Therapists by Janis Phelps; and Foundational Concepts in Neuroscience (Ch. 1-10) by David Presti.

Trainees are expected to read by the end of May: Microaggressions in Everyday Life (2020, Second Edition) by Derald Sue and Lisa Beth Spanierman (Ch. 1–6 and 9–10). By the end of August, trainees will read Allies for Awakening: Guidelines for Productive and Safe Experiences with Entheogens by Ralph Metzner and the edited volume by Michael Winkelman and Ben Sessa, Advances in Psychedelic Medicine. By the end of October, trainees will complete the second half of Bill Richards’s Sacred Knowledge, as well as the edited volume by Charles Grob and James Grigsby, Handbook of Medical Hallucinogens.


Sue, D. and Spanierman, L. (2020, 2nd ed.). Microaggressions in Everyday Life. John Wiley and Sons. (Ch. 1–6 and 9–10 required; remaining chapters recommended).

20 Recommended Books for the CIIS Certificate Program in 2022

These recommended books are influential texts in the discourse over the past several decades on psychedelic research: psychedelic-assisted and existential psychotherapies, shamanism, transformational practices, and consciousness exploration. We recommend that trainees read these books during or after their training in the 2022 certificate program.

Caveat: Several of the recommended books were written when the consciousness of internalized racism and sexism was more limited. Please read those books with patience when you come upon such sentiments. Despite these serious flaws, we recommend such older books due to the unique and singular wisdom to be gained from the rest of the book.


