



THE ESALEN CATALOG
JANUARY-JUNE 2013

Celebrating
FIFTY YEARS
*of Personal & Social
Transformation*

Psychedelic Medicines and the Mind

February 22-24, 2013

Psychedelics are among the most interesting and poorly understood of all the psychoactive substances. They produce a variety of complex effects on the brain and mind, including intensification of thoughts and feelings, alterations of sensory perception, and loosening of psychological defenses. Because of these complex effects, psychedelics are powerful probes of the connection between brain physiology and consciousness, one of the most deeply mysterious questions in contemporary science

In their plant and fungal forms, psychedelics have been used by humans for millennia for therapeutic, ritualistic, and religious purposes. Modern scientific research with psychedelics has taken place for more than a century and was one of the driving forces in the early days of biological psychiatry. The widespread popular use of some of these substances in the 1960s contributed to legal regulation that closed down human research. However, after 25 years of quiescence, human clinical research with psychedelics is returning to mainstream science.

This workshop will cover the history, botany, chemistry, psychology, and sociology of psychedelics, leading up to the re-emergence of multiple arenas of contemporary research addressing the medicinal and spiritual aspects of these remarkable substances.

Continuing Education credit for psychologists, MFTs, LCSWs, and nurses.

David Presti is a neuroscientist at the University of California in Berkeley. His areas of expertise include the chemistry of the human nervous system, the effects of drugs on the brain and mind, and the scientific study of mind and consciousness.