

Editorial

We are delighted to publish the complete second issue of the *Spiritual Psychology and Counseling (SPC)* journal, the peer-reviewed international scientific journal for the publication of research and studies covering all aspects of spirituality and issues related to spirituality within the context of psychological processes. SPC is only at the beginning of a fruitful journey. Launching a new scientific journal is not an easy endeavor, but the first and second issues have empowered our hope and will to maintain SPC as a high-quality interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of current empirical research and scholarly contributions that adhere to the international standards of scientific methodology and the scholarly presentation of scientific contributions. We, the editorial board of SPC, are thankful to the authors, our editorial members, and the staff at EDAM who have rigorously worked on proofreading and other technical processes.

The first issue had articles that concentrated on different spiritual traditions with diverse scientific methodologies. A classification of peer-reviewed article genres was implemented in the first issue of SPC. “Spiritual heritage” articles are those that concentrate on introducing a particular spiritual tradition or its representation into the areas of psychology and counseling. Research articles are, as the name implies, empirical articles with diverse methodologies. Original articles denote all types of scholarly articles that do not fall within either of these two types. The second issue also has the same level of richness as the first with respect to methodologies and areas of focus.

This issue has two spiritual heritage articles and three research articles. In Summermatter’s article, we are introduced to Attar of Nishapur’s Seven Valleys and the stages of human cravings from a psychological perspective. She attempts to outline a Sufi framework on the processes of self-realization through the windows of the allegorical texts of Attar. Sevim, in his article on Haci Bektash, also provides a Sufi understanding of self realization and compares it to Maslow and other contemporary psychologists’ views on self actualization. Attar of Nishapur and Haci Bektash are great Sufi teachers who lived in nearly consecutive historical periods. We hope the two articles increase the availability of the spiritual legacy of these two eminent masters to psychological and scholarly audiences.

As for research articles, the relational screening study of Halıcı-Kurtulan and Kararimak investigates the relationships among death anxiety, spirituality, religious orientation, and existential anxiety. The other two articles use qualitative research designs. Göcen qualitatively explores the connections among gratitude, spirituality, and life satisfaction in a large sample of Turkish-Muslim children. The main data-collection tool was gratitude diaries, which are also an important therapeutic tool in positive psychology-based treatments. Hatun, Yavuz-Birben, İnce, and Kalkan-Yeni investigate how parents of disabled individuals deal with the reality of disability, their hardships in accepting the process, and support mechanisms used in dealing with their situation based on in-depth interviews. Its title, “The Ticket to Heaven: A Spiritual Resource for Coping with Disability,” strikingly implies the spiritual coping mechanisms utilized by the parents.

We believe this second issue also has the potential to stimulate interest and fruitful discussions on concepts within the realms of psychology and mental health. Meanwhile, SPC has also started to be included in several scientific indexing services and content networks such as CrossRef, Scientific Indexing Services (SIS) Database, Directory of Research Journals Indexing (DRJI), Turkish Education Index (TEI), and ISAM Electronic Resources Database (Theological Articles Database). Although the journal is at the beginning of its journey, promising developments such as a growth of positive reception and international contributions have instilled hope and optimism. Finally, we reiterate our invitation for researchers and practitioners all over the world to contribute to the scientific literature on spiritual psychology and counseling by submitting manuscripts to SPC.

Sincerely,

Halil Ekşi, PhD.