



CALL FOR CHAPTERS

AROUND ECSTASY:

Communicating the Ineffable

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY
EDITED VOLUME

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Around Ecstasy: Communicating the Ineffable

Contributions for an Interdisciplinary Edited Volume

Ecstatic experience has long represented one of the most fascinating and problematic frontiers of human communication. Visions, trance states, possession phenomena, mystical raptures, contemplative practices, meditative absorption, and transformative inner experiences all seem to inhabit the margins of ordinary language, generating a fundamental paradox: the necessity of expressing what appears, by its very nature, ineffable.

The edited volume *Around Ecstasy: Communicating the Ineffable* aims to investigate the ways in which profound interior experiences (religious, spiritual, meditative...) are narrated, translated, embodied, ritualized, and symbolically communicated across different historical and cultural contexts.

Rather than focusing exclusively on Christian mysticism, the volume seeks to promote a broader interdisciplinary reflection on the communicability of ecstasy and transcendence, examining the multiple strategies through which individuals and communities attempt to give form to experiences that resist conventional linguistic expression.

Attention will be devoted to themes such as bodily language, silence, metaphor, music, autobiographical writing, ritual practices, ascetic techniques, meditation, performative dimensions, and the social construction of spiritual experience.

Editors

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The volume welcomes contributions from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives, including but not limited to:

- History of Religions
- Religious Anthropology
- History of Christianity
- Philosophy and Philosophy of Language
- Psychology of Religion
- Mysticism Studies
- Performance Studies
- Literary and Autobiographical Studies
- Art History and Iconography
- Musicology
- Gender Studies
- Neuroscience of Spirituality and Meditation

Possible topics include:

- Languages of the ineffable in religious traditions
- Ecstasy and autobiographical writing
- The body as a medium of ecstatic communication
- Possession, trance, and altered states of consciousness
- Contemplative practices and meditation techniques
- Visions and religious imagination
- Silence as a communicative form
- Music, dance, and ritual performance
- Symbolic and metaphorical languages of spiritual experience
- Gender, authority, and the narration of ecstasy
- Social reception and regulation of ecstatic phenomena
- Liminal experiences between spirituality, medicine, and psychology

Comparative and methodologically interdisciplinary approaches are especially encouraged.

Submission Guidelines

Interested scholars are invited to submit:

- an abstract of approximately 300–500 words;
- a short biographical note (max. 150 words);
- institutional affiliation, if applicable.

Send to: info.diodati@gmail.com (email subject line: “CfC_Around Ecstasy”)

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline: **2026, 26 Jul.**
- Notification of acceptance: 2026, 31 Aug.
- Full chapter submission: **2026, 31 Jan.**

Accepted Languages

English, Italian, French, Spanish

Promoting Institution (Contacts)

Associazione Culturale Giovanni Diodati | Edizioni Diodati (Padua, Italy)

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