

## ***Human Biographical Development Through The Life Phases A Medical-Therapeutic Perspective***

**We are currently recruiting people to join with us in creating a core leadership group to expand and deepen Rudolf Steiner's theories of biographical human development and their application within the many fields of therapeutic work.**

This is a new program offered jointly by Human Development Alliance and Western Institute of Social Research (WISR). It is an intensive training program that will also enable one to complete an individually designed, interdisciplinary MA or PhD, depending upon one's previous educational level.

***Why is this course being offered?*** We are interested in offering a Masters/PhD program in which we can explore questions, practices and issues practitioners are facing, and, in particular, how a deeper understanding of human biographical development could be helpful in deepening one's work. We would also like to synthesize some of the main ideas and wisdom gathered from professionals working in various therapeutic fields and stimulate inquiry among other professionals and practitioners through collaborative, action oriented research

***Who are these Masters and PhD. Programs for?*** This program is designed for Medical/Health practitioners who may be familiar with Steiner's biographical development model but who also want to learn more about how to apply it in their fields and about the scope of its possibilities. It is particularly for those who wish to form a leadership group among professionals and conduct research that has practical value for others. WISR has students enrolled from all over the world who are engaged in meaningful social, medical, and educational endeavors within their own communities, professions, individual countries and worldwide.

### **What would the courses be about?**

There are six Core Subject areas:

- A comparative study and analysis of Rudolf Steiner's theories of human development in relation to other cognitive, emotional, psychological, biological and spiritual theories of human development.
- Exploration of the physiological development including organ developments and their effect on later cognitive, emotional and spiritual development.
- Studies to develop skills and methods of using life phase studies - workshop methods, individual therapy, presentations, taking case histories etc.

- Application of biographical methods of therapy to diverse populations and ages.
- Inquiry into the possible contributions of this field of inquiry to the overall development of society.
- Exploration of Steiner's theories of karma and destiny in relation to the life phases.

**What kind of degrees are these?** These Master's and Doctoral degrees are both research and practice based. There is an emphasis on qualitative and experiential as well as action-oriented research. They are individually designed with the consultation and support of WISR faculty, and studies are interdisciplinary.

**How can these degrees be helpful to me?** At WISR, students are assisted in doing projects that are meaningful to them and which are recognized by scholars, professionals, and lay citizens as being significant to others. These projects can be helpful to students in developing their professional portfolios before they even finish their degrees. The degree earned, combined with your individual occupation and capabilities can give added credence, depth, and authority to your work.

### **What will be the form of the program?**

This program is designed to be either a residential or distance learning program with attendance at one annual symposium mandatory. The symposiums will be in California with the possibility of a second one in Australia.

The symposiums will have anthroposophic experts – doctors, therapists, psychologists, and biography counselors in the different core subject areas--giving presentations and workshops. They will also provide students an opportunity to share their own research. Throughout the program, there will be an emphasis on qualitative, action-research.

Students will meet, either by phone or in person, one to two (or more, if desired) times per month to individually tailor their projects and papers within the different core subject areas to their field of practice or interests. There will also be opportunity to work on collaborative projects with others. There will be the symposiums and scheduled conference calls in which all of those involved can share results, questions, and insights they have gained. We hope and will encourage people to publish the results of their work, either formally or informally on our website, so it can be available to a wider audience.

**Who will be teaching in this program?**

WISR faculty have very solid traditional academic backgrounds in teaching and in research. In addition, they have more extensive interdisciplinary knowledge and perspective as well as more broad community and professional experience than is found on most faculties. For this program, Sue Scott and Jane Johansen are joining the WISR faculty to provide leadership and broad-based anthroposophic knowledge and understanding. Numerous other experienced anthroposophic doctors and therapists will be participating in and leading seminars and symposiums.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Human Development Alliance**, founded by Sue Scott and Jane Johansen is dedicated to the deepening of our collaborative understanding of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual growth and development of the human being and the ways in which this understanding can enhance the practices of medicine, psychology, allied health modalities and enrich social institutions. We are aware that there are a number “biography work” practitioners and trainers who have developed workshop formats, individual counseling style sessions, educational programs and written books based on Rudolf Steiner’s theories of human development. We wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of these practitioners and trainers and, at the same time, work to expand and deepen Rudolf Steiner’s theories of biographical human development. We see that offering an opportunity for health care practitioners and researchers to have an academic forum from which to present publications in the field of biographical work will strengthen the possibility to bring these outcomes to a wider range of medical doctors, allied health practitioners, social practitioners and educators. We see the rising numbers of mental health problems in our time, and hope that through this work, students will develop further developmental models, which will contribute to society.

**The Western Institute of Social Research** in Berkeley California was founded in 1975 to provide community involved adults with high-quality learning opportunities, combining academic theory and research with experienced-based knowledge and insights, and to help people develop leadership toward educational innovation, community improvement and constructive social change within their field of inquiry.

**For more information, please contact Jane Johansen or Sue Scott at [info@humdev.org](mailto:info@humdev.org) or visit the WISR website at [www.wisr.edu](http://www.wisr.edu)**