Cognitive Social Science of Nonordinary Experiences

Instructors: Ann Taves (Religious Studies) & Elliott Ihm (Psychological & Brain Sciences)

This intensive (8-unit), interdisciplinary (science + humanities) summer class will introduce students to a wide range of methods for studying the effects of cultural beliefs and practices on the frequency and interpretation of nonordinary experiences.

- Across cultures, people have experiences that seem out of the ordinary, anomalous, or exceptional.
- They may occur while dreaming, meditating, taking drugs, or engaged in everyday life.
- They may be seen as personally significant, transformative, puzzling, or distressing.
- They may be interpreted as religious, paranormal, or pathological.

Student research teams will study groups such as:
- Meditators
- Psychedelic drug users
- Evangelical Christians
- Spiritual-but-not-religious

Each team will have
- Humanities specialists, focusing on historical & ethnographic methods
- Scientific specialists, focusing on psychological & statistical methods

and learn how to build knowledge across disciplines.

Summer Session A
June 21 - July 30, 2021

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
2:00 - 4:30 PM

Apply Here:
https://ucsbltsc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0xEsHo6jXTWefC6

Scholarship Application Deadline: APRIL 1

- $2000 scholarships
- Enrollment limited to 40 students
- Answer a few questions and write a brief essay about why you are interested
- Scholarship applicable to unit fees
  (Contact your departmental advisor for summer enrollment information)