



JAMES OLSON

Biography

James Olson is an integral philosopher whose studies have included business, engineering, art, Eastern and Western religion, psychology, sacred geometry, human sexual orientation, and neuroscience as relating to the study of the effects of brain dominance in our lives.

How Whole Brain Thinking Can Save the Future is Olson's second book, which expanded upon his award-winning first book, *The Whole-Brain Path to Peace* (2011). Olson's ultimate goal for writing about brain perspectives is to promote the holistic thinking. As a practicing philosopher, he has worked most of his life to unify his understanding of material things, ideas and spiritual energies by eliminating conflicting ideas and embracing those that are in harmony with one another.

Noting how one side of our brain tends to dominate the other, Olson explores how distortions and destructive polarizations occur—in politics, culture, and our relationships—when one brain hemisphere is dominated by the other. If our intention is to gain the cooperation of others and live in peace, he explains that each of us must learn to consciously integrate the contrasting views of the world provided by each brain hemisphere. The right and left hemispheres are designed to be complimentary, to work together. The right brain, being holistic is inclusive in perspective, includes the left-brain perspective. And being aware of the left-brain's contribution, the right is not threatened by the left. "The brain can manage itself," according to Olson. "What we need to do is get out of our way, which means to not be afraid of one side or the other. We need to make sure that each perspective respects the other, which then leads to cooperation."

In the *How Whole Brain Thinking Can Save the Future*, Olson demonstrates that we have the freedom to adjust our perceptions—and harmonize our relationships—by shifting our brain perspectives at will, as each occasion demands.

The increasingly important advances of brain science—often included under the terms *neuroscience*, *cognitive science*, or *cognitive psychology*—are a source of endless fascination for Olson. His motivation for writing this book was to address what he believes is the most critical issue of our time, which goes far beyond the narrow concerns of any science: *how we can create an environment of peace in ourselves and in the world—an environment that enhances and enables our best and most creative attributes—in this time of unprecedented global dangers and insanity.*

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Olson starts with a core of conservative farm and Christian values, and into that integrates the complementary perspective of Eastern religion, the liberal perspective of Europe, the wisdom of ancient Egypt, the facts of science, the discipline of business, and the unique spiritual insights offered by modern revelation.

Having traveled extensively throughout Europe; Olson lived in Austria, France, and Germany; and attended Oklahoma State University, the University of Vienna, Oklahoma University, the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and the Kansas City Art Institute. He holds a degree in business administration.

After living for several years in California, James Olson returned to his hometown and now resides in Oklahoma.

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