



# INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE SCHOOL

SOLVING GLOBAL CHALLENGES THE INTERDISCIPLINARY WAY

## IGS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE (IGS-DL)



By Dr Katherine Peil Kauffman

### Emotion: A Self-Regulatory Sense

For centuries philosophers have pondered moral value: What is “right” and what is “wrong” in terms of human thought and action. While science offers clarity in many other domains, the nature of values is strategically avoided. The new science of emotion shows this to have been a preemptive mistake, suggesting instead that emotion – not reason or semantic language - is the foundational source of all value systems, with emotional pleasure and pain offering universal moral utility rooted in the health of the physical structure. It also suggests that emotion is as ancient as life itself, delivering “self-regulatory” sensory guidance across the entire animal kingdom, and affording living systems direct participation in evolution. Emotion is now recognized as the inaugural sensory system, with its good and bad qualia still evident in all higher senses, now encoding not one of three levels of personal (self-relevant) guidance within our basic and complex emotional feelings. The implications from this new science ripple outward in nearly every direction, offering a far more optimistic picture of human nature and hope for cooperative coherence in our now-global village.

#### RSVP HERE

**HOSTED BY |**  
Mr Jan Vasbinder  
Director  
Para Limes

**DATE |**  
Thursday, 9 March 2017

**TIME |**  
**Lunch:**  
12.00pm – 1.00pm  
**Talk:**  
1.00pm – 2.00pm  
(seated by 12.45pm)

**PLACE |**  
IGS Seminar Room  
Blk S2-B3a-01

### About Dr Katherine Peil Kauffman

Katherine T. Peil is the Founding Director of non-profit EFS International, whose mission is fostering global emotional wisdom. From a background in Pantheistic spirituality and clinical and social psychology, her lengthy interdisciplinary inquiry into the biophysical substrates of emotion led to the identification of its previously mysterious biological function: as an ancient “self-regulatory sense” – an evaluative perceptual mechanism through which living systems directly participate in self-organizing and evolutionary processes, and one that invites deeper inquiries into the physics of consciousness. This new science also casts light upon innate “biovalues, which scientific methodology has long avoided, as well as vital processes that in-form common spiritual experiences, and the healthy development of empathic moral conscience. It provides a biophysically informed vision of “naturalistic spirituality”, one that echoes the common wisdom across the great religious traditions, while challenging such time honored assumptions as “sin” and the “good and evil” dichotomy. A former affiliate of Northeastern University and the Harvard Divinity School, Ms. Peil has spoken internationally on the function, evolution, physio-chemical, and informational nature of emotion, as well as its central role in optimal health, human development, moral reasoning, universal spiritual experiences, and its informative value toward creating nonviolence in a global village. Introductions to this work can be found at: <http://emotionalsentience.com/>.