

The Hero's Journey
A Tribute to Joseph Campbell and his 30th Anniversary of Death
Special Issue in the Journal of Genius and Eminence

Joseph Campbell (1904-1987) is one of the most influential and innovative mythographer of the 20th century. His outstanding life-time achievement is the working out of a single great story, the essence of (all) heroic stories. In his foundational work "The hero with a thousand faces" (1949), he calls this the monomyth which is regarded as universal across time and space. Therefore, Campbell was less interested in cultural and regional differences but more in the discovery of the similarities and the common ground of myths. He was deeply influenced by Carl Jung's conceptualization of the "archetype" (1959) and by Heinrich Zimmer's mythological Indian studies (1946). Campbell's ideas were disseminated to a larger, non-academic audience by an interview series with Bill Moyers which was broadcasted one year after his death and published as "The power of myth" (1988). His influence on popular culture, like on script writing for the first Star Wars film, is undoubted. However, his multi-layered work has till now not received a widespread impact on the academic community (Rensma, 2009).

Campbell's comparative observations lead to the development of the hero's journey which describes the stages of the transformation that heroes seem to commonly share. In a nutshell, the hero's journey is the insightful illustration or holistic metaphor for the monomythical framework. Regarded as a flexible model, the hero's journey has the power for the creation of infinite varieties of shapes and progressions of the different stages (Voytilla, 1999). It is a narrative pattern that can appear physically as well as emotionally or psychologically. Over the past thirty years, Joseph Campbell's hero's journey has been introduced into various academic and professional areas and domains. Christopher Vogler (1998) uses it for narrative analysis and composition of films and plays. The hero's journey has been developed further to a gestalt therapeutic workshop concept by Paul Rebillot (1993) and a broader psychological approach which focuses on the hero as a universal transformative archetype by Carol Pearson (1991). Trobisch *et al.* (2012) have extended the journey to a principle which can be activated especially in organizations.

With this call, we wish to engage the potential of the hero's journey through interdisciplinary and cross-methodological approaches. Researchers with diverse backgrounds or research interests as well as scientifically interested practitioners open-minded to critical approaches are invited to participate. We welcome theoretical, conceptual, artistic, spiritual, empirical and peripheral contributions that revisit Campbell's theory and the ongoing legacy of the monomyth

as well as papers which apply the hero's journey to new fields or in an innovative way. Themes include, but are not restricted to:

- the correlation between heroes and geniuses,
- common and different features between eminence and ordinary hero's journeys,
- various forms of the hero's journey,
- the group as the hero and its journey,
- the impact of the hero's journey on various professional areas and domains,
- creativity, innovation and transformation in the context of the hero's journey.

Submission details for our journey

15.01.17	Extended abstract (maximum 1200 words) which clearly states the contribution of the article to the special issue
15.04.17	Paper submission
15.04.-15.09.17	Reviewing, revising and editing of papers under consideration
30.10.17	Publication of the Special Issue

Further information concerning the call for papers is available from Stephan Sonnenburg (guest Editor), Karlshochschule International University. Please submit your extended abstract to him: ssonnenburg@karlshochschule.de.

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