

## Book Review

---

Review of *Transformative Learning for a New World View: Learning to Think Differently* by M. G. Jackson, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, 216 pp.

Review by Jerome Stone

---

This is a thoughtful book about helping people to develop an alternative philosophy, a style of thinking which should produce more eco-friendly behaviour. It will be of interest to readers of this journal, especially those concerned with education. It does have some problems.

It is based on the author's experience as Environmental Educator with the Uttarakhand Environmental Education Centre in India, working with villagers who want their children educated into the global economy. The book's pedagogy is worth examination. The use of collaborative learning with trained facilitators and community members seems valuable. The author has also developed a flow chart describing the "transformative learning process" which is a helpful schematic device for students and facilitators in what can be a disorienting process: questioning the basic assumptions of one's culture.

The worldview which the author hopes we move toward is a Whiteheadian organismic one. He is correct as to the desirability of this. However, he uses too much unnecessary Whiteheadian philosophical terminology. He also relies too heavily on a Hindu mythic outlook. This has much merit, but it needs to be assessed critically. Many persons with a scientific or rational orientation will be turned off by this. Myth is valuable, but it can lead to obscurantism.