

Claire Petitmengin

Editorial Introduction

This special issue is the sequel to the issue entitled *Ten Years of Viewing from Within* (Petitmengin, 2009), commemorating the tenth anniversary of the publication of *The View from Within* (Varela & Shear, 1999), where Francisco Varela in collaboration with Jonathan Shear designed the foundations of a research program on lived experience. The objective of the commemorative issue was to examine and refine this research program on first person methods, through contributions based on empirical research. At the end of the Editorial Introduction, I invited other researchers to participate in this debate by commenting on the articles in the issue, comments which would be published with replies from the authors — as was the case in *The View from Within*.

In response to this invitation, I received six commentaries targeting either one or two specific articles, or a question which was referred to in several articles. Four of these commentaries received one or several replies. The first four commentaries (by Dan Zahavi, Tom Froese and colleagues, Pierre Steiner and Jesse Butler) and their replies (by Russ Hurlburt, Pierre Vermersch, Michel Bitbol and myself) focus on the epistemological and methodological foundations of introspection. The fifth commentary, by Natalie Depraz, is devoted to the experience associated with listening to a sound. Finally, the article by Jean-Philippe Lachaux is an outstanding article showing the need to integrate first-person reports in neurosciences.

We hope that these two issues make a contribution to establishing possibility of a first-person discipline and to strengthening the emerging research community in this field. We also hope that the reader will take as much interest and pleasure in reading these contributions as we took in writing them.

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References

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