

## **BICS ESSAY Competition Rules, Qualifications, Confidentiality and Media Release Form**

### **1. Essay Application**

- a. All Essay Competition Entrants must first apply to BICS.
- b. Prior to essay submission, each prospective entrant must submit this signed application by email describing their background and qualifications to receive BICS approval to enter the Awards competition (see #2 for more detail).
- c. All applicants must sign releases to BICS for any and all media interviews and publicity. By signing this document applicants agree to make themselves available for media (TV, radio, newspaper, social media) interviews if their essay is declared a winner.
- d. Only those entrants with approval from BICS will be eligible to enter the Essay Competition.
- e. Preliminary Applications must be received by BICS **January 26-February 28, 2021**. People who have been approved to submit an essay will hear from us on or before February 28, 2021. If you have not been approved, you will not hear from us.

### **2. Essay Applicant Qualifications:**

- a. Applicants must provide evidence that they have investigated the topic of Survival of Human Consciousness after Death for 5 years or more. For multi author submissions, only one author must have 5 years' experience in the topic while other authors can be less qualified.  
Evidence of investigation such as published papers, monographs, books or producers/directors of film or digital documentaries will be accepted. Embedded links to written or digital work will be welcome as part of the application.

- b. It may help if applicants are/were a member of relevant organizations for example Society of Psychical Research, Society for Scientific Exploration, American Society for Psychical Research, Institute of Noetic Sciences, International Association for Near Death Studies, Rhine Research Center, Windbridge Research, Parapsychological Association, Eternea, Center for Research on Consciousness and Anomalous Psychology (CERCAP), Koestler Parapsychology Unit (University of Edinburgh, Scotland), NUPES – Research Center in Spirituality and Health (Brazil) or be a staff researcher (including emeritus) in an accredited university in the world. Submission of *curricula vitae* is allowed.
- c. Applicant may be an ordained member of a religious order or group. Formal ordination, or membership in religious orders is relevant only if the affiliation relates to scholarly works in the body of the essay.

### 3. Essay Question

Each essay must address the following question:

*What is the best available evidence for the Survival of Human Consciousness after Permanent Bodily Death?*

### 4. Essay Submission Deadline

Essays must be emailed to, and received by, BICS by 5.00pm Pacific time **August 1, 2021**

### 5. Judging

- a. Essays will be judged by a panel of five internationally renowned experts.
- b. Judges' decisions are final
- c. Winners will be announced on **November 1, 2021**
- d. All judging deliberations and inter-BICS discourse in any form are proprietary to BICS and will not be disseminated to candidates or to the public.

### 6. Essay Formatting

- a. Essays must be in English, typed in 12 font, be up to 25,000 words not counting references.
- b. Each submitted essay must detail all citations and references of information sources and evidence. Paraphrasing other people's work must be referenced.
- c. References must be numbered in the body of the text and arranged numerically in a reference section at the end of the essay. Footnotes are also acceptable. References can be in the styles of the writers, but should use the American Psychological Association Manual style for guidance and cite: Author(s), (Year) volume, page number(s) and book or journal title / publisher.

## **7. Essay Guidelines**

- a. Quoting sacred scripture is an expression of faith. For the purposes of this contest, faith is not sufficient and does not constitute evidence, although it may well inform or influence the specific argument and choice of materials used. Therefore scriptural quotations would not be accepted as evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, that is, they will carry no authority for the sake of this contest because they claim as much for the believer. Of course quotations from scholarly faith-based literature if relevant to experimental research of others, or non-evidentiary material is permitted [eg if related to case or subject of past research criteria being analyzed]. BICS understands that true (or veridical) evidence includes a combination of a wide variety of forms; scientific, experiential, witnessed, repeatable, anecdotal and otherwise persuasive far beyond rules of traditional evidence-based hypothesis tested research paradigms.
- b. All essays must be original, unpublished, and not submitted elsewhere. Authors are free to refer to, explain, analyze and cite, their own previous work in their essays.

## **8. Copyright & Essay Publication Rights**

- a. Authors retain all rights to their work.
- b. BICS reserves the right to publish the winning entries on this website, in a possible proceedings volume and in the media.

- c. Derivative publications in other media are permitted, if/as permitted by the publication's rules.

## **9. Beyond A Reasonable Doubt**

BICS encourages, and will accept, the inclusion of credible eyewitness and witness testimony as valid evidence for the Survival of Human Consciousness after Death. Eyewitness testimony is a bedrock for conviction by juries and judges in the United States and in International Court Systems. Therefore BICS will accept evidence and eyewitness testimony supporting the legal requirement that establishes proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

## **10. Applicant Participation, Confidentiality Agreement and Media Release**

WHEREAS, Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies ("BICS") is sponsoring an essay contest for the best research and/or presentation regarding the survival of consciousness beyond physical death (the "Contest").

WHEREAS, each applicant in the contest ("Entrant") will be required to provide an essay supported by studies, research and other empirical evidence supporting survival of consciousness after death (collectively the "Entry") in order to participate in the Contest.

WHEREAS, each Entrant will be required to electronically submit their Entry (an essay together with all supporting research) by August 1, 2021 at 5.00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, through the BICS website ([bigelowinstitute.org](http://bigelowinstitute.org)).

WHEREAS, as a condition to participation in the Contest, each Entrant must agree to and sign this consent and release, according to the terms set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for, and in consideration of, the opportunity to enter the Contest, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by the Entrant's signature below, Entrant hereby states, avers, and agrees as follows:

### **A. RELEASE AND CONSENT OF CONTEST ENTRANT**

By submitting my Entry to the Contest, I hereby grant BICS and its designees the perpetual, worldwide right to reproduce, promote, and otherwise use my Entry and/or its contents in any media advertising, promotional, and/or any other purposes, as BICS and/or its designees may determine or see fit, without having to seek permission from, and without consideration or notification to Entrant or any third party. Entrant acknowledges and warrants that it holds all rights to the Entry and all supporting research submitted in support thereof. I also agree that the entry may, in BICS' sole discretion, be posted online at the contest website and/or any other website as determined by BICS, for visitors to the website(s) to view.

I understand that at or for purposes of this Contest, my image may be captured and used by either still photography or video recording. I agree to allow my photo, video or film likeness to be used for any legitimate purpose by BICS, the contest event holders, producers, sponsors, organizers and or assigns. I further agree to participate in any interviews with media or other promotional activities, (health permitting), designated by BICS if I am the recipient of any award through the Contest (as long as BICS pays the reasonable travel expenses, including airfare and lodging, associated with such promotional activities, which must be pre-approved by BICS in writing before BICS has any obligations). I further acknowledge and agree that all enforcement of any Contest rules and the determination of the Contest winner(s) shall be the exclusive right, and at the exclusive discretion, of BICS, and/or BICS' judges. I further acknowledge and agree that BICS shall have the right to disqualify and remove me from participating in the Contest at any time, and for any reason, which reason need not be provided to me.

In consideration of my Entry and permitting me to participate in this Contest, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows: (A) I agree to Waive, Release and Discharge BICS, the Contest Judges, as well as any other persons, vendors, entities, and/or businesses participating in staging the Contest which are not otherwise named herein, as well as their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, Contest holders, Contest promoters, Contest sponsors, Contest volunteers, Contest permit grantors, Contest property owners, from any and all liability for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, cell

phone damage, property theft, lost income, or any other losses, costs or actions of any kind which hereafter may accrue to me by virtue of my participation in this Contest, or my travel to or from BICS or any location necessary for promotional purposes if I am a winner of any award through this Contest; (B) I agree to Hold Harmless and Indemnify the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from and against any and all liability, losses, costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred as a result of my Entry being submitted to BICS in violation of any terms of this Agreement or any rules adopted by BICS for this Contest, including, but not limited to, any failure on my part to obtain the releases required from any and all persons who may claim any interest in my Entry or the contents thereof. I have read and fully understand the above important information, warning of risk, assumption of risk and waiver and release of all claims. Participation in the Contest will be denied if I have not signed this waiver before the start of the Contest.

#### **B. WARRANTY OF CONTEST ENTRANT**

I represent and warrant that I own all right, title and interest and have obtained all appropriate permissions and releases to grant BICS the right to use and publish my Entry, the content thereof, and all research associated therewith, which shall include but not be limited, all right, title and interest to any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or other proprietary rights, including but not limited to, privacy and publicity rights, in and to, my Entry, to enable BICS to review, judge, use and publish my Entry. I further represent and warrant that I have obtained a Participant Release Form from any identifiable person who appears in, is heard in, has allowed the use of his/her name, likeness, or voice in the Entry, or that has otherwise contributed to the Entry. If Entrant is a minor, I have received the written consent of Entrant's legal guardian.

I hereby agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless BICS and its affiliates, licensees, successors and assigns from and against any and all liability, losses, costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred as a result of any Entry submitted to BICS in violation of any terms contained in this Agreement or in any rules for the Contest that may be promulgated by BICS. I further agree that contacting the judges for any reason is forbidden and could result in disqualification from the Essay Contest.

### **C. NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT OF CONTEST ENTRANT**

In consideration of my Entry and permitting me to participate in this Contest, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and hereby agree that I will not share any information whatsoever, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) I will not disclose, or take any unauthorized pictures, still or moving of, any portion of any of the Contest proceedings, Contest judges, Contest managers, Contest presentations, Contest holders, Contest promoters, Contest sponsors, Contest volunteers, Contest permit grantors, Contest property owners, as well as their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents;

(b) I will not directly or indirectly disclose to any person or entity (including, without limitation, to any media source or social media source or any other social networks, websites or the internet) any information of any kind relating to or concerning the Contest, the Contest Judges, my Entry, or BICS, including its affiliates, officers, shareholders, directors, managers, members, representatives, licensees, successors and assigns, as all such information is strictly confidential. I understand and agree that disclosure of any of the information prohibited by this Paragraph can only be permitted with an express, written agreement signed by BICS.

I understand and agree that all such information is confidential and that the dissemination of any such information shall constitute a breach of this confidentiality and non-disclosure Agreement and will cause BICS irreparable harm, not readily measurable in money.

### **D. MISCELLANEOUS**

(i). **Applicable Law.** This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of Nevada, with regard to its choice of law provisions. If legal action is initiated relative to this Agreement or the rights or obligations of any party hereunder, such action must be initiated, maintained and continued in Clark County, Nevada.







**Co-Author #1**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-Author #2**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

If there are more than three co-authors, the additional coauthors must sign, date, and give their names, mail addresses and email addresses.