

IJPLC | INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PRESENCING LEADERSHIP & COACHING

EDITORIAL

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Introductory Remarks

Welcome to the second issue of the *International Journal of Presencing Leadership & Coaching*. Following the inaugural theme of *Developing Presencing Mastery*, this issue delves into the inner terrain of *Presencing Embodiment*. Building on the first issue, this edition invites us to explore how embodiment deepens and enriches presencing, unfolding it as a fully lived and felt reality within leadership and coaching.

As the field of presencing leadership and coaching evolves, embodiment continues to play a central role in shaping presencing practices. This issue seeks to build on and clarify aspects of embodiment by exploring how the inner experiential senses of it participate in the presencing process. By rooting presencing in the lived experience of the practitioner's body, we open pathways for transformation that extend from the personal to the relational, and ultimately to the greater collective.

The inquiry guiding this issue invites us to consider:

- What new forms and interior processes illuminate the embodiment of presencing in leadership and coaching?
- What blind spots or limiting assumptions hinder deeper engagement with embodied presencing, individually and collectively?
- What subtle inner practices hold untapped potential for leaders and coaches seeking to integrate embodied presencing into their work?

Through these questions, the theme of Presencing Embodiment has been explored, inviting us into an integrative space where emerging forms are cultivated in leadership and coaching at multiple levels. With this second issue, we aim to deepen the dialogue and make new inroads into what constitutes presencing embodiment, offering insights, frameworks, and practices that in turn expand the horizons of presencing-based leadership and coaching.

Embodiment as the Generative Ground of Presencing

Presencing embodiment invites practitioners to redirect as well as root their awareness in the body, offering a somatic foundation for engaging with the complexities of relational, systemic, and transformative dynamics. As part of an evolving exploration and understanding of presencing, different pathways of embodiment bring forward somatic intelligence that plays a vital role in shaping and informing presencing experience. Entering into the realm of embodied awareness creates conditions that enhance presencing, integrating individuals with both their inner somatic sense of being and the outer dimensions of their experience.

Throughout history, the body has been recognized as a central pathway into presence across diverse traditions. Eastern meditative practices emphasize the body's subtle sensations as an entry point into deeper states of awareness and connection. Indigenous wisdom traditions often center on the body as a bridge to relational and ecological interdependence, where embodiment fosters a profound sense of interconnectedness with the natural and communal worlds. In Western thought, thinkers such as Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Eugene Gendlin, Francisco Varela and others have each explored how the lived experience of the body gives rise to presence and orients meaning somatically. Their work affirms the somatic dimension of felt-based knowing and offers a philosophical grounding for understanding embodiment as a generative source of insight and awareness.

Drawing on a shared recognition of embodiment's significance, this issue's submissions bring renewed attention to the transformative role of the body in presencing. Practices that cultivate somatic awareness, embodied stillness, and relational attunement are increasingly recognized as essential tools for leaders and coaches. These practices help practitioners align with the generative dynamics of presencing, enabling them to access new levels of coherence, creativity, and authenticity in their work. By grounding presencing in the body, practitioners not only deepen their capacity for transformative engagement, they also foster a more integrated presencing that bridges the personal and collective dimensions of leadership and coaching.

In this way, embodiment serves as a broader medium through which presencing is enacted, sensed and experienced, providing a dynamic and living foundation for the unfolding of presencing in action. As the field of presencing continues to evolve, the body remains a vital terrain of exploration, offering pathways into the deeper dimensions that presencing seeks to connect with, inhabit and express.

Blind Spots and Overlooked Dimensions of Embodied Presencing

While the different roles and functions of embodiment are increasingly acknowledged in the fields of leadership and coaching, its deeper possibilities remain only partially understood. In many settings, embodiment is approached through techniques or physically oriented practices—gestures, postures, or breathwork that offer meaningful access points yet also risk reducing or fragmenting embodiment in different ways. Without a holistic awareness, one can bypass the subtle interior processes of embodiment including overlooking aspects of the felt rhythms, energetic shifts, and ontological grounding points that sustain a living continuity of presence.

As an example, stillness has various expressions in embodied contexts. As a cessation of inner movement, a calming of physical activity, and other variations, certain forms of embodied stillness can support a generative state of being that is alive with somatic attunement to one's inner sense of being and outer responsiveness to experience. When accessed and integrated in a multi-faceted way, stillness supports leaders and coaches in holding space, sensing into complexity, and responding with depth and discernment. Overall, when stillness is well embodied, it invites trust, creativity, and alignment

with others, hence the need to become literate with the ways stillness impacts embodiment.

An underexplored area of practice is how embodied attention unfolds within the individual versus relational dimension of presencing. While presencing comes to life in both contexts, there remains a deeper inquiry into how embodied awareness is shaped by, and in turn shapes, the dynamics of individual and relational spaces of engagement. Further, embodiment is not always contained in the physicality of the individual. As a felt dimension of our experience, it is informed across different interior and shared somatic spaces within, between as well as collectively. Presencing practitioners who become adept at navigating these interconnected domains of embodiment foster a capacity for whole engagement across individual and presencing field spaces.

Another omission to draw attention to is that of developmental framing. Much of the current discourse on presencing focuses on interior states of embodiment and temporary access to presencing without recognizing how it deepens and stabilizes over time through lived integration of adult development stage-based unfolding. From a developmental perspective, presencing transforms through ongoing practice and lived integration, supported in becoming a more stable orientation in how one leads, relates, and engages the world when developmental awareness is present.

Embodiment can be thought to be universal as a process, yet in practice it is deeply shaped by context. Cultural narratives, organizational norms, and systemic dynamics influence how various embodied understandings of presencing are expressed, received, and sustained. When these contextual layers are overlooked, embodiment strain into abstraction and become disconnected from the realities of our day to day living. A responsive embodiment, by contrast, attunes to the subtle texture of our inner and outer environments and relationality. It attunes to the cultural, interpersonal, situational and systemic dynamics at play, allowing presencing to arise more fully and in a grounded, relevant, and nuanced manner.

Finally for now, the depth-dimensions of embodiment have tended to remain unnamed in presencing practice. Beneath the surface of our experience lie more unknown registers of experience shaped by subtle forms of energetic attunement, vibrational resonance, and the felt-based wisdom of the inner body and consciousness. When cultivated and integrated, these subtle felt-based ways of knowing can support and guide practitioners into a more rooted ground of presencing contact, where the deeper latent wisdom of presencing becomes amplified. Including these deeper aspects in the scope of our embodied awareness helps more essential, wisdom-informed modes of presencing to emerge. To explore a broader spectrum of embodied presencing is to enter a richer phenomenological terrain where the richness and subtlety of somatic, emotional, intuitive and other dimensions of embodied presencing can be explored.

Encouraging Emerging Presencing Approaches (EPAs)

In exploring the evolving terrain of presencing embodiment, this issue of the *International Journal of Presencing Leadership & Coaching* touches on a number of the divergent pathways, orientations, and practices starting to emerge in the field. Given how presencing embodiment is developing and filling out, as the richness and complexity of presencing practice continues to develop and unfold, sometimes this points beyond established frameworks toward emerging frontiers in presencing leadership and coaching. As noted in the previous editorial of IJPLC, there is an increasing need to recognize and differentiate presencing practice along the respective stages of presencing theory and practice. Figure 1 below reflects this longer developmental historical evolution from the initial foundations of presencing prior to Theory U (Stage One), through its articulation in Theory U (Stage Two), to its current and still-forming expressions across Theory U-informed and emerging post-Theory U approaches (Stage Three: Theory U and EPAs).

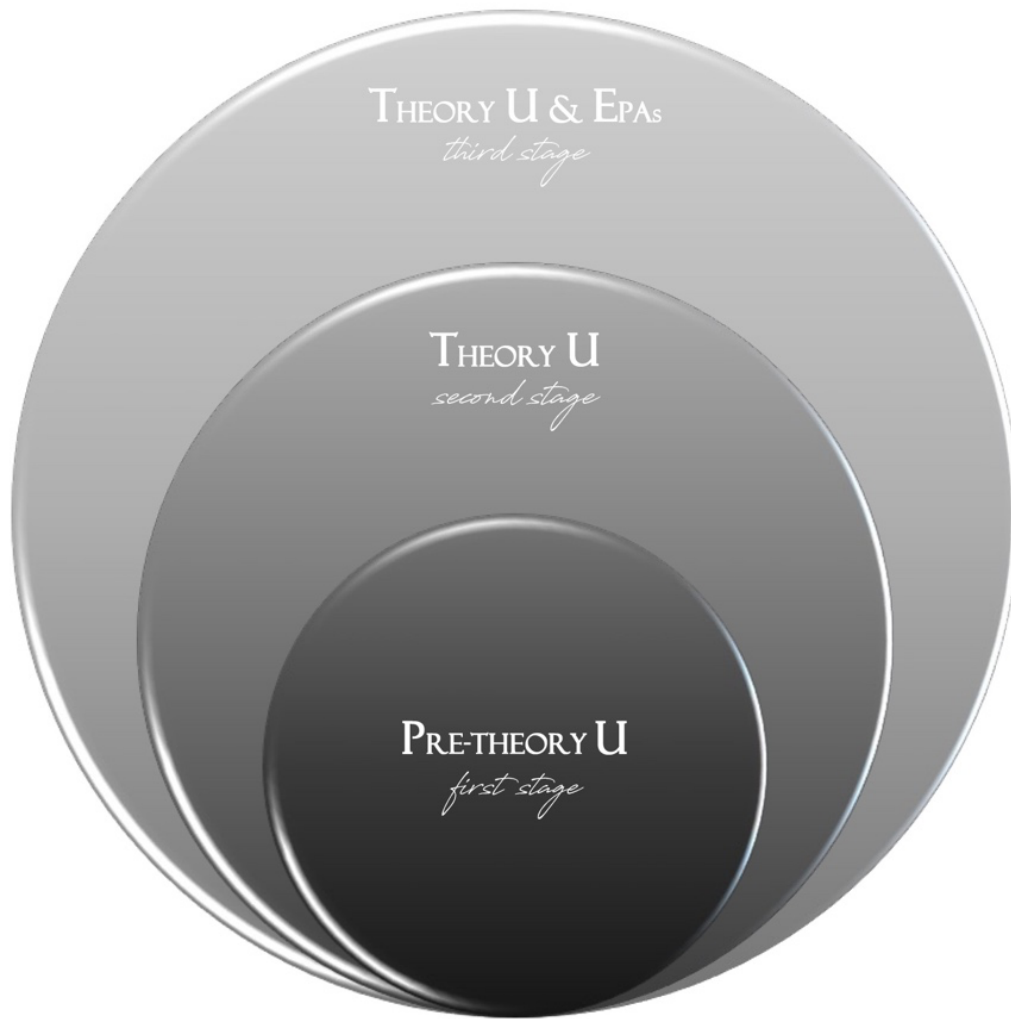


Figure 1.0 Three Stages in the Evolution of Presencing Theory & Practice

In this spirit, IJPLC remains dedicated to showcasing *Emerging Presencing Approaches* (EPAs) that bring fresh insights and novel expressions to presencing leadership and coaching. Through a continued development of a multiplicity of presencing perspectives, methodologies, and lived experiences, the journal aims to cultivate an ongoing dialogue that honors the older, current and emerging lineages of presencing in order to meaningfully evolve current horizons of practice in meaningful and transformative ways.

As a broad emerging category, EPAs reflect a deeper commitment to experimentation, inquiry, and methodological innovation. When presencing is innovating both process-and content-wise, it becomes a living practice. As such, it is important to continue illuminating the contours of respective presencing practices by exploring their application in dynamic and context-sensitive ways, particularly where somatic, relational, and field-based dimensions intersect. As these emergent pathways continue to unfold, they invite deeper exploration into how presencing is embodied, enacted, and cultivated across diverse disciplines and practices.

Recognizing the significance of this ongoing emergence, IJPLC provides a dedicated space for these explorations through both *Feature Articles* and the new *Exploratory Research* section. The latter, in particular, serves as an incubator for emerging presencing scholarship, offering a platform where

nascent inquiries can be articulated, critically examined, and advanced in ways that contribute to the field's ongoing evolution.

Building on the inaugural issue's theme of *Developing Presencing Mastery*, this current issue's exploration of *Presencing Embodiment* signals a continued deepening into exploring the interior dynamics of presencing. This thematic progression reflects IJPLC's ongoing commitment to advancing both theoretical and applied understandings of presencing as a lived and enacted process. Future issues, centered in the themes of *Collective Presencing Leadership* and *Presencing Approaches to Coaching*, will continue this trajectory, broadening and deepening the discourse and cultivating a dynamic platform where diverse voices, methodologies, and perspectives can emerge, converge and diverge. Through these intersections, the broader field of presencing is being resourced to grow into new territories of inquiry and emergent regions of practice—one of the chief aims of IJPLC.

As we curate contributions for these forthcoming issues, IJPLC invites submissions that engage with the evolving landscape of presencing in ways that bridge the leading edge of established scholarship and practice with emerging frontiers. We welcome work that refines existing applications while also illuminating the generative potential of new presencing approaches, contributing to the ongoing diversification and maturation of this emerging field.

At IJPLC, we recognize the importance of cultivating a generative space where presencing can be critically examined, creatively reinterpreted, and expanded beyond established paradigms. Rather than reinforcing current orthodoxies, we are committed to fostering a living discourse that remains open to inquiry, innovation, and deeper integration. This commitment includes welcoming EPAs that challenge or question prevailing norms, introduce novel methodologies, or reexamine foundational assumptions. By making room for diverse voices, we invite a rigorous yet generative exploration of presencing that honors both tradition and emerging practice.

The contributions featured in this current issue exemplify a range of Emerging Presencing Approaches that deepen embodiment across multiple dimensions of practice and inquiry. Each article brings forward distinct insights that illuminate how presencing becomes more fully lived through movement, stillness, inquiry, trauma healing, creative process, and developmental unfolding.

Toward a Multi-Faceted Embodiment of Presencing Practices

This issue of the *International Journal of Presencing Leadership & Coaching* showcases twelve contributions that explore embodiment as a gateway into presencing. Across these diverse perspectives, embodiment emerges as a multidimensional process that unfolds through somatic awareness, relational attunement, systemic engagement, imaginal resonance, and developmental depth. Together, these articles reflect the ongoing emergence of a third stage of presencing scholarship, one that roots presencing in a living immediacy while expanding its relevance through new practices, frameworks, and methodologies.

In the article *Cultivating Presencing Embodiment: Five Orientational Modes from the Performing Arts*, Bobby Ricketts distills years of experience in jazz improvisation and leadership facilitation into a vibrant model of embodied relational practice. He introduces five orientational modes: Deep Listening, Embodied Awareness, Embracing the Unknown, Co-Creation, and Playfulness through which presencing becomes an unfolding process of creative attunement. His work invites practitioners to experience presencing as a performative and rhythmic encounter.

Sam Hinds, in *Communal Reverie: Introducing an Imaginally-Inflected Presencing Approach*, offers a contemplative oriented presencing practice that opens participants to shared imaginal resonance. Drawing from Jungian psychology, mystical traditions, and phenomenological inquiry, Hinds presents

Communal Reverie as a mode of collective presencing that gives access to the symbolic interior of the group. Through this practice, groups are invited to sense and enter a subtle imaginal field in which deeper meaning and shared knowing become available beyond conceptual reflection.

Olen Gunnlaugson's article, *Presencing as a Way of Being: Inhabiting Fourth-Person Knowing in Dynamic Presencing Coaching*, offers a reframing and deeper integration of fourth-person knowing. Gunnlaugson introduces Dynamic Presencing Coaching (DPC) as a fully embodied path that inhabits fourth-person knowing grounded in the presencing self-sense. Through this lens, the presencing field is reconceived as a living, co-arising dimensional conduit—accessed through the coherence of the Coach's inner presencing body and emerging presencing self. The article identifies five core contributions that reposition fourth-person knowing from an epistemic construct to an ontological practice—deepening its grounding within coaching, and the unfolding of presencing as a transformational way of being.

In the article *Being Embodied in Navigating Challenge: A Catalyst for Presencing Leadership*, Katharina Sell shares insights from a two-year action research collaboration with executives. Her findings emphasize grounding and felt sensing as micro-practices that stabilize awareness and open intuitive channels of leadership intelligence. Sell's approach to presencing reveals how deep embodiment allows complexity to be navigated through an ontological clarity that emerges from within the living presence of the body.

Markus Peschl, Peter Hochenauer, Gloria Bottaro, and Katharina Roetzer, in their article *How to Facilitate Presencing as an Embodied Transformative Learning Process: The Role of Embodied Practices in Future-Oriented Leadership in Innovation Teams* introduce a presencing-informed learning model grounded in 4E cognition. Their work highlights how embodied experience, relational synchronization, and attentional practices foster the conditions for collective emergence. Through case-based research in innovation and higher education contexts, they present a practice-based framework that supports future-generative leadership.

David Young, in *Presencing Embodied Leadership: Synchronizing and Integrating Trauma for Transformative Healing*, addresses the often-overlooked relationship between trauma and presence. He outlines a five-stage model for recognizing and integrating unresolved trauma patterns through body-based practices. This article contributes a trauma-informed orientation to presencing, where embodied resilience is reclaimed and presence becomes a healing and ethical act in leadership and coaching.

In *The Effectiveness of Equine-Assisted Learning to Develop Presencing Mastery*, Lissa Pohl explores how horses serve as relational mirrors in presencing-based leadership development. Through direct, nonverbal feedback, participants engage multisensory awareness and real-time alignment. Pohl's contribution frames Equine-Assisted Learning as a unique modality that brings forward immediate embodiment, somatic congruence, and authentic responsiveness to presencing in transformational learning settings.

Colin Skelton, in *Embodied Leadership Through Presencing: Unleashing Intelligence in the BodyMind*, draws on physical theatre and somatic performance techniques to reveal how leaders can cultivate embodied intelligence in presencing. He emphasizes the roles of interoception, proprioception, and perception as portals into real-time presence. Skelton's work underscores the expressive and perceptual capacities of the body as foundational to presencing in relational and organizational life.

Ute Weber-Woisetschläger's article in *Embodied Presencing Leadership: Midwifing Transformation through the Integral Art Lab*, presents an artistic and contemplative approach to collective presencing. The Integral Art Lab becomes a space where presence is activated through deep seeing, aesthetic resonance, and group sensing. Her work shows how the creative process can transmute habitual energies and constellate higher coherence through embodied attention and shared experience.

Exploratory Research

For this second issue, the Exploratory Research section features three contributions. One arises from the final phase of my recent Sabbatical as Visiting Professor at the John Molson School of Business, Concordia University. The other two reflect lines of inquiry and practice within the field. Taken as a whole, these contributions embody the journal's exploratory spirit, exploring the evolving edges of presencing while inviting new dimensions of the practice into view.

In the first article, Olen Gunnlaugson, in *Advances in the Methodology of Presencing: Letting Be as a New Presencing Gesture, Interface and Transformative Path*, introduces letting be as a third presencing gesture that deepens and stabilizes the Dynamic Presencing process. Distinct from letting go and letting come, letting be anchors presence within its own depth-structure, cultivating coherence, relational clarity, and ontological grounding. This gesture supports the transformation of presencing into a generative way of being, opening new pathways for leadership, coaching, and collective practice.

In his second exploratory contribution, *Dynamic Presencing Coaching: Beyond Letting Go and Letting Come*, Gunnlaugson introduces three foundational holding gestures—Holding Presence, Holding Depth, and Holding Emergence—as a critical development within Dynamic Presencing Coaching. These gestures complement the established letting sequence—Letting Go, Letting Be, and Letting Come—forming a dynamic interplay that cultivates both receptive attunement and generative participation. Together, they stabilize the Coach's inner presencing body, strengthen coherence within the presencing self, and support the unfolding of emergence in the coaching field—enabling a more dimensional, embodied, and engaged presencing way of coaching.

In *Transforming the Presencing Self: A Threefold Developmental Movement*, Gunnlaugson introduces a framework for deepening our developmental relationship with presencing. This threefold movement begins with the meta-shift, which opens perspective-based awareness of the presencing self. It then moves through the mesa-turn, an ontological descent that grounds awareness in the embodied depths of one's presencing nature. The final gesture, unitive resting, stabilizes this realization as a generative state of being. These movements reorient presencing toward a living axis of coherence and integrative embodiment. The framework offers coaches and leaders a method for cultivating presencing as a way of being.

Each contribution in this issue reflects a broader maturation underway in the field of presencing leadership and coaching. Across diverse practices and perspectives, embodiment is becoming more integrally woven into how presencing is enacted, sensed and shared. This integration is giving rise to new possibilities for deeper transformation in how presencing is engaged. At the same time, presencing is reconnecting with its deeper roots as a living wisdom practice, resourcing leadership and coaching with capacities attuned to complexities and interdependencies of our current world.

Presencing as an Emerging, Trans-Traditional Wisdom Practice

Beyond its contemporary applications in leadership and coaching, presencing is increasingly coming into view as a trans-traditional wisdom practice. Like mindfulness and meditation—now widely recognized disciplines—presencing is unfolding as a generate process and path for cultivating awareness, relational attunement, collective insight and transformative action across diverse domains of human inquiry and practice. Its emergence marks a vital development in the evolution of contemplative, transformative, emergent, and post-conventional ways of knowing and being.

While Theory U has contributed significantly to the articulation and dissemination of presencing practice over the past two decades, the underlying essence and core principles of presencing draw from much older, cross-cultural sources in contemplative, philosophical, and indigenous traditions.

In this light, contemporary articulations of presencing (whether Theory U or other EPAs) reflect a much wider developmental trajectory taking new form within present-day contexts. This deeper continuity of lineage clearly affirms that presencing is neither proprietary nor encompassed by any single institutional framework or model. Rather, it is a living, evolving practice with deep roots in multiple traditions and futures still emerging. Within such a trans-traditional context, the very notion of presencing as a proprietary construct dissolves—revealing instead a shared human inheritance that calls for ongoing co-stewardship.

To fully situate this discussion, nearly two decades ago, Scharmer’s articulation of presencing as a disciplined practice of accessing emergent futures and co-shaping systemic transformation has been widely recognized as a novel contribution. More recently, with Pomeroy, he has framed presencing as a fourth-person structure and way of knowing, an effort to legitimate the social field as a source of knowledge. While these contributions mark important developments in the contemporary articulation of presencing, they also invite us to remember that the deeper movement of orienting from emergence—of attuning to the not-yet-manifest—is part of a much older and more diverse stream of human inquiry. Across cultures, traditions, and disciplines—including contemplative lineages, futures studies, visionary epistemologies, and strands of Western philosophy such as Heidegger’s inquiry into the ontological conditions for the emergence of Being—diverse practices of future-sourcing, intuitive foresight, and participatory world-making have long participated in this inquiry. In this light, Theory U reflects an influential articulation of presencing within a much longer and broader lineage. What it and other EPAs contribute going forward are new forms, languages, and applications through which the underlying essence of presencing is being made newly visible.

When viewed in a broader historical context, presencing is a fundamental human potential and participatory way of knowing and being, one whose emerging individual and collective expressions now call for shared stewardship. As this wider field continues to mature, a growing ethical imperative arises: to cultivate presencing as it is—a trans-traditional wisdom approach. In this light, presencing requires open-source best practices that ensure its responsible evolution and optimal dissemination. To date, presencing has emerged as an adaptive, field-responsive discipline. Its essence has offered guidance in shaping moment to moment relational engagement, embodied awareness, and attunement to the living conditions of what is arising. This depth of responsiveness makes it especially resonant, vital and relevant amid the systemic challenges and uncertainties of contemporary life.

The *International Journal of Presencing Leadership & Coaching* is committed to accompanying and supporting this ongoing evolutionary unfolding. As a generative scholarly space, IJPLC affirms the continued necessity of fostering multiple presencing approaches—each contributing to the articulation of presencing as a living, integrative, and transformational discipline. This includes methodologies that deepen the ontological grounding of practice, clarify the dimensionality of presence, and extend the relevance of presencing across a wide spectrum of current and emerging contexts.

Looking ahead, we invite future contributors to help shape what may be currently understood as the third emerging stage of presencing scholarship, as illustrated in Figure 1.0 above. This current phase encompasses both the continued evolution of Theory U and a broader ecology of Emerging Presencing Approaches, each offering distinct contributions to this growing field. These diverse perspectives are especially vital, as they open new pathways into presencing practice. As presencing continues to unfold as a trans-traditional domain of academic and applied inquiry, IJPLC remains committed to co-stewarding this next stage, accompanying the emergence of generative, integrative and inclusively grounded presencing theories, practices and methodologies.



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His current research in Dynamic Presencing explores how presence- and presencing-based mastery approaches support leaders and coaches in uncovering their signature way of being and cultivating resilient forms of thriving in today's destabilized and rapidly shifting world. Dynamic Presencing introduces a presence-sourced, presencing-guided, and field-attuned approach to leadership, coaching, and life as a whole. His latest book offers an accessible introduction to this emerging presencing approach, with two forthcoming volumes offering deeper guidance into its core practices and developmental frameworks.

To date, Olen has authored or co-authored over 55 peer-reviewed articles and chapters and 15 edited, authored, or forthcoming books, including the recent three-volume series *Advances in Presencing*, which showcases interdisciplinary research and applications from the global presencing community. A passionate educator, he has received five major faculty awards for excellence in teaching in both Canada and the United States. At Université Laval and other institutions internationally, he mentors MBA and PhD candidates in pioneering research across the evolving frontiers of presencing leadership and coaching.

He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Presencing Leadership & Coaching*, a peer-reviewed, open-access journal that bridges emerging scholarship and practice in the fields of presencing-based leadership and coaching.

In parallel, Olen is the founder of Dynamic Presencing Coaching (DPC), a deeply transformative coaching approach and living lineage. As an applied research focus, DPC integrates his teaching, coaching, and presencing-related scholarship into a unified body of work. Over the past five years, this approach has continued to evolve through coaching, teaching, and research within global MBA classrooms and international communities of practice.

Olen's research, publications, and latest contributions can be found here:

[Google Scholar](#), [ResearchGate](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Amazon Author page](#), [Faculty Page](#)