

psilocybin mushrooms of the world

psilocybin mushrooms of the world have captivated human curiosity for centuries, not only for their potent psychoactive effects but also for their deep roots in spiritual, medicinal, and cultural histories across diverse societies. These enigmatic fungi, often referred to as "magic mushrooms," contain the naturally occurring psychedelic compound psilocybin, which converts into psilocin in the human body, leading to altered perceptions, mystical experiences, and sometimes profound personal insights. As interest in natural psychedelics surges globally, understanding the various types of psilocybin mushrooms, their habitats, legality, and cultural significance becomes increasingly important for enthusiasts, researchers, and policymakers alike.

What Are Psilocybin Mushrooms?

Definition and Composition

Psilocybin mushrooms are a group of fungi that produce psychoactive compounds, primarily psilocybin and psilocin. These substances are responsible for the hallucinogenic effects experienced during ingestion. The potency of these mushrooms varies widely depending on species, cultivation methods, and environmental factors.

Historical and Cultural Significance

Historically, indigenous peoples in regions such as Mesoamerica have utilized psilocybin mushrooms for spiritual rituals, divination, and healing purposes. Archaeological findings, including painted ceramics and ritual artifacts, suggest that these fungi played a pivotal role in ancient spiritual practices, some dating back thousands of years.

Major Types of Psilocybin Mushrooms Around the World

The diversity of psilocybin mushrooms is vast, with over 180 species identified worldwide. However, only a handful are well-known for their potency and cultural relevance.

Psilocybe cubensis

- Distribution: Tropical and subtropical regions worldwide, especially in Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and parts of North America.
- Appearance: Golden-brown cap, often convex with a smooth surface, accompanied by a thick stem.
- Potency: Moderate; commonly cultivated and popular among amateur growers.

Psilocybe semilanceata (Liberty Cap)

- Distribution: Widely found in Europe, North America, and parts of New Zealand.
- Appearance: Small, bell-shaped cap with a distinctive pointed apex.
- Habitat: Typically grows on pastures, grassy fields, and decayed organic matter.

Psilocybe cyanescens (Wavy Cap)

- Distribution: North America, Europe, particularly in wood chip mulches and decaying wood.
- Appearance: Wavy-edged caps with a caramel-brown coloration.
- Potency: High; considered one of the most potent psilocybin mushrooms.

Psilocybe azurescens

- Distribution: Native to the Pacific Northwest of the United States.
- Appearance: Large, caramel-colored cap with a prominent veil.
- Potency: Very high; often referred to as one of the strongest psilocybin mushrooms.

Gymnopilus species

- Notable Member: *Gymnopilus junonius*.
- Habitat: Grows on decayed wood and stumps.
- Potency: Varies; some contain significant psilocybin levels.

Global Distribution and Habitats

Understanding the habitats of psilocybin mushrooms helps in their identification, cultivation, and conservation efforts.

Native Regions and Ecological Niches

- North America: Rich diversity, especially in the Pacific Northwest, with species like *Psilocybe cyanescens* and *Psilocybe azurescens*.
- South America: Indigenous use of *Psilocybe cubensis* and other species, often in forested regions and grasslands.
- Europe: Presence of species such as *Psilocybe semilanceata* in grassy fields and meadows.
- Asia: Various species cultivated and used traditionally, particularly in Thailand and India.
- Australia and New Zealand: Naturalized populations of *Psilocybe cubensis* and others.

Habitat Preferences

- Grasslands and Pastures: Many psilocybin mushrooms grow on manure or in grassy fields, as seen with *Psilocybe semilanceata*.
- Decaying Wood and Mulches: Species like *Psilocybe cyanescens* thrive on wood chips, sawdust, and decayed stumps.
- Humid, Temperate Climates: Most species prefer moist, shaded environments with stable temperatures.

Legality and Ethical Considerations

The legal status of psilocybin mushrooms varies significantly across countries and regions.

Legal Status Globally

- Illegal: In many countries including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia, psilocybin mushrooms are classified as controlled substances.
- Decriminalized or Legal for Medical Use: Certain jurisdictions, such as Denver, Colorado, and Oregon, have decriminalized possession or authorized supervised therapeutic use.
- Legal Cultivation and Sale: Very limited; often restricted to research settings or specific medicinal programs.

Ethical and Safety Concerns

- Potential Risks: Psychological distress, bad trips, or underlying mental health issues can be exacerbated.
- Environmental Impact: Overharvesting wild populations can threaten native species and ecosystems.
- Respect for Indigenous Traditions: Recognizing and respecting traditional uses and knowledge systems is vital.

Cultivation and Identification

Growing Psilocybin Mushrooms

Cultivating psilocybin mushrooms has become increasingly accessible, with various kits and methods available.

- Substrate Preparation: Common substrates include brown rice flour, vermiculite, and manure.
- Sterile Technique: Ensuring contamination-free environments is crucial.
- Environmental Conditions: Maintaining proper temperature, humidity, and light levels supports healthy growth.
- Harvesting: Timing is essential; mushrooms should be harvested just before spore drop for optimal potency.

Identifying Wild Mushrooms Safely

- Key Features: Cap shape, color, gill attachment, spore print color, and habitat.
 - Warning: Many non-psychoactive or toxic mushrooms resemble psilocybin species. Accurate identification by experts is vital before consumption.
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The Future of Psilocybin Mushrooms

Research and Medical Potential

Recent scientific studies explore psilocybin's potential to treat depression, anxiety, PTSD, and addiction. Clinical trials are expanding, leading to a renaissance in psychedelic medicine.

Conservation and Ethical Use

Efforts are underway to protect wild populations and promote sustainable cultivation. Education about responsible use and legal reform is also advancing.

Legal Reforms and Cultural Shifts

As evidence of benefits mounts, more regions are reconsidering their stance on psilocybin mushrooms, potentially leading to broader legal acceptance and integration into mental health practices.

Conclusion

The psilocybin mushrooms of the world embody a complex intersection of culture, ecology, science, and legality. From ancient rituals to modern medical research, these fungi continue to influence human society profoundly. Whether appreciated for their spiritual significance, studied for their therapeutic potential, or cultivated for personal exploration, understanding their diversity and significance is essential. As research progresses and societal perceptions shift, the future of psilocybin mushrooms will likely see an evolving landscape of legal, scientific, and cultural developments—ensuring that these mysterious fungi remain a topic of fascination and importance for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are psilocybin mushrooms and why are they considered popular worldwide?

Psilocybin mushrooms, also known as magic mushrooms, are fungi that contain the psychoactive compounds psilocybin and psilocin. They are popular globally due to their use in spiritual, recreational, and therapeutic contexts, as well as increasing scientific research exploring their potential mental health benefits.

Which countries have the highest diversity of psilocybin mushroom species?

Countries in Central and South America, such as Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia, boast the highest diversity of psilocybin mushroom species. Additionally, regions like the Pacific Northwest of the United States and parts of Southeast Asia are known for their native varieties.

Are psilocybin mushrooms legal around the world?

Legal status varies widely; they are illegal in many countries due to their psychoactive effects, though some places like the Netherlands tolerate their sale in specialized shops, and a few regions, such as certain cities in the US, have decriminalized or legalized their use for medical or research purposes.

What are the most common species of psilocybin mushrooms found globally?

Some of the most common species include *Psilocybe cubensis*, *Psilocybe semilanceata* (liberty caps), *Psilocybe cyanescens*, and *Psilocybe azurescens*. *Psilocybe cubensis* is particularly widespread and frequently cultivated.

How do psilocybin mushrooms vary across different regions of the world?

Regional differences manifest in species diversity, potency, and traditional usage. For example, Latin American cultures have used native species like *Psilocybe mexicana* for centuries, while in Europe and North America, species like *Psilocybe semilanceata* are more common.

What are the potential therapeutic benefits of psilocybin mushrooms?

Research suggests that psilocybin mushrooms may help in treating depression, anxiety, PTSD, and addiction. They are being studied for their ability to promote psychological insight, emotional release, and enhanced well-being when used under professional guidance.

What are the risks associated with consuming psilocybin mushrooms?

Risks include psychological distress, bad trips, paranoia, and in some cases, risky behavior or accidents. There is also the danger of misidentification with toxic look-alike species, which can be lethal.

How are psilocybin mushrooms cultivated and identified worldwide?

Cultivation involves spores and substrate materials, with techniques varying by region and legality. Identification relies on visual characteristics like cap shape and gill color, but proper identification requires expert knowledge to avoid toxic species.

What is the future outlook for the popularity and acceptance of psilocybin mushrooms globally?

With increasing scientific interest and changing legal attitudes, especially in parts of North America and Europe, the future may see wider acceptance, potential medical legalization, and more research into their benefits, though legal and cultural barriers remain in many regions.

Additional Resources

Psilocybin Mushrooms of the World: A Comprehensive Exploration

Introduction

Psilocybin mushrooms of the world have long captured the imagination of scientists, historians, and recreational users alike. Known colloquially as "magic mushrooms," these fungi contain the psychoactive compounds psilocybin and psilocin, substances that induce profound alterations in perception, mood, and cognition. While their use dates back thousands of years across various cultures, modern interest continues to surge—driven both by scientific research into their therapeutic potential and ongoing debates around legality and safety. This article offers a detailed, yet accessible overview of the diverse species of psilocybin mushrooms worldwide, exploring their taxonomy, geographic distribution, cultural significance, and contemporary scientific perspectives.

The Biology and Chemistry of Psilocybin Mushrooms

What Are Psilocybin Mushrooms?

Psilocybin mushrooms are fungi belonging primarily to the genus *Psilocybe*, although other genera such as *Panaeolus* and *Gymnopilus* also harbor psychoactive species. These fungi produce the naturally occurring hallucinogens psilocybin and psilocin, which act on serotonin receptors in the brain to produce altered states of consciousness.

Key Psychoactive Compounds

- Psilocybin: A prodrug that is converted into psilocin in the human body, responsible for most of the psychedelic effects.
- Psilocin: The active compound that interacts directly with serotonin receptors, producing visual and auditory hallucinations, euphoria, and introspection.

Morphological Features

Most psilocybin-containing species share certain characteristics:

- Small to medium-sized, convex or conical caps
- Gills underneath the cap, where spores are produced
- Thin, fragile stems
- Coloration varies from tan, brown, to darker hues, often with a bluish tinge when bruised

Diversity of Psilocybin Mushrooms Around the World

The Genus *Psilocybe*: The Primary Contenders

The genus *Psilocybe* is the most prominent group of psychoactive mushrooms, with over 180 recognized species. They are found worldwide, from tropical rainforests to temperate woodlands. Some notable species include:

- *Psilocybe cubensis*: Perhaps the most well-known due to its widespread cultivation and use.
- *Psilocybe cyanescens*: Known as "Wavy Cap," native to the Pacific Northwest.
- *Psilocybe semilanceata*: Commonly called "Liberty Cap," widespread across Europe and North America.

Other Genera Containing Psychoactive Species

- *Panaeolus*: Contains species like *Panaeolus cyanescens*, known for high potency.
- *Gymnopilus*: Includes *Gymnopilus spectabilis*, which contains significant amounts of psilocybin.
- *Conocybe* and *Inocybe*: Less common but contain some psychoactive species.

Geographic Distribution and Notable Species

North America

The continent hosts a rich diversity of psilocybin mushrooms:

- *Psilocybe cyanescens*: Widespread in the Pacific Northwest, especially in wood chips and mulch.
- *Psilocybe semilanceata*: Found across lawns, pastures, and grassy fields, especially in cooler climates.
- *Psilocybe cubensis*: Cultivated globally but also found growing naturally in the southeastern US, Central America, and the Caribbean.

Central and South America

A cultural hub for traditional use:

- *Psilocybe mexicana*: Historically used by indigenous peoples of Mexico for spiritual rituals.
- *Psilocybe caerulescens*: Found in Mexican forests, used in shamanic practices.
- Indigenous cultures have used these fungi for thousands of years, notably in Mesoamerican spiritual ceremonies.

Europe

- *Psilocybe semilanceata* is prevalent across grasslands and pastures, especially in the UK, Ireland, and parts

of Scandinavia.

- *Psilocybe hispanica* and other species are less common but documented.

Asia and Australia

- Limited species, but *Psilocybe subaeruginosa* is found in parts of Australia, especially in forested areas.
- In Southeast Asia, reports of psychoactive species are less documented but likely exist.

Africa

- Less comprehensive data, but some reports suggest the presence of psychoactive species in North African regions and South Africa.

Cultural and Historical Significance

Ancient Uses and Archaeological Evidence

- Mesoamerica: The Aztecs and Mayans documented use of *Teonanácatl*, meaning "Flesh of the gods," referring to psilocybin mushrooms.
- Pre-Columbian Art: Mural paintings and artifacts depict mushroom imagery, suggesting ritualistic use.

Modern Revival and Scientific Research

- The 20th century saw renewed scientific interest, notably with R. Gordon Wasson's 1957 expedition to Mexico, which popularized Western awareness of these fungi.
- Recent studies explore psilocybin's potential for treating depression, PTSD, and addiction, leading to a renaissance in clinical research.

Legal Status and Ethical Considerations

Global Legal Landscape

- Many countries classify psilocybin mushrooms as illegal substances, citing potential for abuse.
- Some nations have decriminalized or tolerated use, such as Portugal and parts of the US (e.g., Denver, Oakland, and Oregon).

Ethical and Safety Issues

- Risks include psychological distress, paranoia, or bad trips, especially in unsupervised settings.

- Ethical concerns surround indigenous use and bioprospecting; respecting traditional knowledge is vital.

Cultivation and Identification

How to Identify Psilocybin Mushrooms

- Look for small to medium-sized mushrooms with convex caps.
- Blue bruising is often a hallmark of active species.
- Avoid confusing with non-psychoactive lookalikes, some of which can be toxic.

Cultivation Basics

- Growing *Psilocybe cubensis* is relatively straightforward and popular among hobbyists.
- Requires spores, suitable substrate (e.g., brown rice flour, manure), and sterile conditions.
- Proper identification and legal compliance are essential.

Scientific and Medical Perspectives

Therapeutic Potential

Recent clinical trials suggest psilocybin can:

- Alleviate treatment-resistant depression
- Reduce anxiety in terminal illness
- Aid in overcoming addiction

Challenges and Future Directions

- Need for standardized dosing and safety protocols
- Overcoming legal restrictions to facilitate research
- Ethical considerations around accessibility and potential misuse

Conclusion

Psilocybin mushrooms of the world represent a fascinating intersection of biology, culture, and science. From their ancient roots in indigenous rituals to their emerging role in modern psychotherapy, these fungi continue to inspire curiosity and debate. As scientific understanding deepens and legal landscapes evolve,

the future of psilocybin mushrooms promises both new insights into human consciousness and potential breakthroughs in mental health treatment. However, responsible use, respect for traditional knowledge, and rigorous research remain essential as we navigate this intriguing chapter of mushroom history.

Psilocybin Mushrooms Of The World

psilocybin mushrooms of the world: Psilocybin Mushrooms of the World Paul Stamets, 1996-10-01 The definitive identification guide to more than 100 species of psychedelic mushrooms across the globe, from the author of *Growing Gourmet and Medicinal Mushrooms* “Full of clear, accurate information and sound advice, *Psilocybin Mushrooms of the World* will appeal to anyone wishing to expand their psychic and mycological horizons.”—David Arora, author of *Mushrooms Demystified* Throughout history, humans have incorporated psychoactive mushrooms into our lives in myriad ways, including religious ceremonies where the fungi were worshiped through consumption in annual Aztec feasts and the secretive ancient Greek Eleusinian mysteries. In *Psilocybin Mushrooms of the World*, renowned mycologist Paul Stamets provides a fascinating overview of these misunderstood mushrooms and their continued significance in today’s culture, detailing more than 100 species through colorful photographs, graphs, and the individual effects of each mushroom. He also explores the psychedelic mushrooms’ deadly lookalikes and warns readers about the dangers of consuming wild mushrooms. Complete with a glossary, supplemental resources, and comprehensive illustrations, *Psilocybin Mushrooms of the World* is the ultimate guide to demystifying and understanding psychedelic mushrooms.

psilocybin mushrooms of the world: Psilocybin Mushroom Handbook L. G Nicholas, Kerry Ogamé, 2025-03-04 Now that the DEA has ruled that spores are legal, the popularity of psilocybin has soared. This 2nd Edition of the *Psilocybin Mushroom Handbook* provides updated information on navigating the new legal landscape for spores, acquiring them, and utilizing simple home cultivation kits. A section on microdosing enhances the contemporary experience. Throughout the book, full-color photographs visually guide readers through the cultivation process. This practical guide offers step-by-step instructions for cultivating psilocybin-containing mushrooms indoors or outdoors. With just a clean kitchen, basic equipment, and a closet shelf or shady flower bed, anyone can cultivate a bountiful harvest. The book also includes guidance on discreetly integrating psychedelic mushrooms into outdoor gardens. In-depth coverage of traditional cultivation ways such as using agar, grain, and the PF Tek method from the original edition is complemented by coverage of the new grow kits now readily available. Additionally, the book covers two lesser-known species: *Psilocybe mexicana*, revered by indigenous Mexican shamans for millennia, and *Psilocybe azurescens*, a newly described species thriving in the Pacific Northwest and suitable for outdoor cultivation on wood chips. Respectfully addressing the use of psilocybin-containing mushrooms in both historical and contemporary contexts, the book features contributions from ethnobotanist Kathleen Harrison. She explores the history, rituals, and mythology surrounding sacred *Psilocybe* mushrooms traditionally used in indigenous shamanic practices. The authors also offer insights into how these traditions can inform and benefit modern users, promoting safe, healing, and enriching journeys.

psilocybin mushrooms of the world: Psilocybin Mushrooms in Their Natural Habitats Paul Stamets, 2025-06-10 A full-color guide to psilocybin mushrooms—how to forage, identify, grow, and use them—with detailed descriptions, 300 stunning photographs, tips for dosing safely, and more, from a world-renowned mycologist. The past decade has seen an explosion of interest in using psilocybin (aka psychoactive or “magic”) mushrooms for recreational and medicinal purposes. In this comprehensive, full-color reference, Paul Stamets offers descriptions and 300 photographs of more

than 60 psilocybin varieties and their lookalikes common to North America, Europe, and Australasia. He outlines the history and cultural use of magic mushrooms in traditional rituals and ceremonies, their natural geographic distribution and habitats, and keys to growing your own mushroom patch. But perhaps most important, Stamets explains how to reliably distinguish between a non-poisonous, psychoactive mushroom and one of its highly toxic, even deadly, lookalikes. Packed with a lifetime of scientific and real-world research, *Psilocybin Mushrooms in Their Natural Habitats* brings depth and understanding to an often-misunderstood topic. Revealing the potential of these powerful, mind-awakening fungi to help us live better, happier lives through micro- and macro-dosing, this handbook is an indispensable—and potentially lifesaving—addition to mushroom field guides from the biggest name in mycology.

psilocybin mushrooms of the world: [The Psilocybin Mushroom Bible](#) Dr Hanzel Martins, 2025-09-11 Discover the fascinating world of psilocybin mushrooms with *The Psilocybin Mushroom Bible: The Definitive Guide to Identification, Cultivation, and Safe Use*, your comprehensive resource for exploring these extraordinary fungi. Whether you're a curious beginner or an experienced enthusiast, this expertly crafted guide offers everything you need to safely and confidently navigate the realm of psilocybin mushrooms. Dive into detailed, step-by-step instructions on identifying psilocybin mushrooms in the wild, with vivid descriptions and key characteristics to ensure accuracy and safety. Learn the art and science of cultivating your own mushrooms at home, from selecting the right spores to mastering advanced growing techniques for consistent, high-quality yields. This book also provides essential guidance on safe use, including dosage recommendations, preparation methods, and tips for creating a supportive environment to maximize your experience. Written by an expert, *The Psilocybin Mushroom Bible* combines scientific precision with practical advice, making complex topics accessible and engaging. Explore the history, cultural significance, and emerging research on psilocybin's potential benefits, all while prioritizing harm reduction and responsible practices. Packed with troubleshooting tips, safety protocols, and answers to common questions, this guide empowers you to explore with confidence and curiosity. Perfect for foragers, cultivators, and those intrigued by the transformative potential of psilocybin, this book is your trusted companion for a safe, informed, and rewarding journey. Don't miss out—grab your copy today and unlock the secrets of psilocybin mushrooms!

psilocybin mushrooms of the world: [Psilocybin Mushrooms of the World an Identification Guide](#) David Robert Pond Bowl, 2020-01-10 □ Buy the Paperback Version and Get the Kindle Version for Free □ If you want to start learning how to identify wild mushrooms, learn the difference between the edible mushrooms and their poisonous twins, how to start growing mushrooms, or how to identify magic mushrooms... Read on... Do you want to be able to go for a hike and know that the mushrooms you are bringing home are not going to harm you, make you sick, or worse... kill you? This book is going to show you: The most common mushroom types that you can forage for, How to hunt mushrooms, Where to find them, How to ensure that you are picking the right mushrooms Wild mushrooms are some of the best-tasting mushrooms out there. They are widely sought after, but many people are not willing to pay the high prices that retailers ask if they can even find them in the store. Luckily for you, the forest floor is filled with these delicious little morsels and they are yours for the taking. Have you ever noticed how passionate people are when they talk about eating wild mushrooms? Maybe you have been curious about how they taste but have not had the courage to try them. Maybe you have heard that wild mushrooms will kill you and you fear to pick the wrong ones. While there are some poisonous mushrooms, there are some delicious ones that you can find in the wild as well. Some that will forever change the way that you think about mushrooms. In this book, you are going to learn more than just how to identify mushrooms in the wild. You are going to learn what mushrooms to avoid, how to prepare mushrooms, how mushrooms can actually heal your body and so much more... Even if you have never identified a mushroom before, if you have never been into the woods to look for them, you are going to be able to identify them with confidence when you are done reading this book. This book is the perfect place to start for anyone who has been interested in learning about mushrooms. It is more than just a book about learning how to identify

mushrooms, but it is a book filled with information about mushrooms. From growing tips to using them for micro-dosing, curing diseases, to foraging for food in the wilderness. This book is going to walk you through each of these and so much more. It is my hope that by the time that you finish reading this book, you are going to be able to know how to ensure that a mushroom is safe when a mushroom is poisonous, how to store mushrooms, how to clean each type of mushroom properly, as well as how to prepare them. People tend to be afraid of the things that they don't understand. There is no reason for you to be afraid of wild mushrooms any longer. This book is going to allow you to identify the mushrooms that you want to find and it is going to tell you exactly where you can find them as well as the time of year that you need to start looking for them. This book is packed full of information that is going to help you ensure that the mushrooms you gather are the right ones.

psilocybin mushrooms of the world: All Sky, Mirror Ocean Brad Necyk, 2024-01-04 All Sky, Mirror Ocean weaves and knots autobiography, research-creation, and creative philosophy into an exploration of mental illness, healing, and visionary art. Looking to uncover and tell new stories about trauma and recovery, visual artist Brad Necyk explores his own histories with Bipolar Affective Disorder and childhood medical trauma alongside those of groups dealing with grief and loss: communities in Iqaluit aggrieved by suicide; head and neck cancer patients in Edmonton; and psychiatric inpatients at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. These lived experiences intertwine with scholarship on research-creation, neuroscience, collaboration, and altered states to reveal the understanding and acceptance that comes from acknowledging our deep connections--to ideas and emotions, to our environments, to art, and to each other. Filled with art and stream of consciousness writing, the book celebrates the spontaneous-emotional mode of creativity. Showing deep compassion and wisdom, All Sky, Mirror Ocean hopes to be an exemplar for multimodal research-creation exploration and artistic fieldwork and is for all readers looking to understand the complex issues around mental illness and healing.--

psilocybin mushrooms of the world: Plant Medicines, Healing and Psychedelic Science Beatriz Caiuby Labate, Clancy Cavnar, 2018-04-28 This is a book about the intersections of three dimensions. The first is the way social scientists and historians treat the history of psychiatry and healing, especially as it intersects with psychedelics. The second encompasses a reflection on the substances themselves and their effects on bodies. The third addresses traditional healing, as it circles back to our understanding of drugs and psychiatry. The chapters explore how these dimensions are distinct, but deeply intertwined, themes that offer important insights into contemporary healing practices. The intended audience of the volume is large and diverse: neuroscientists, biologists, medical doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists; mental health professionals interested in the therapeutic application of psychedelic substances, or who work with substance abuse, depression, anxiety, and PTSD; patients and practitioners of complementary and alternative medicine; ethnobotanists and ethnopharmacologists; lawyers, criminologists, and other specialists in international law working on matters related to drug policy and human rights, as well as scholars of religious studies, anthropologists, sociologists, and historians; social scientists concerned both with the history of science, medicine, and technology, and concepts of health, illness, and healing. It has a potentially large international audience, especially considering the increasing interest in "psychedelic science" and the growing spread of the use of traditional psychoactives in the West.

psilocybin mushrooms of the world: Sacred Mushroom of Visions: Teonanácatl Ralph Metzner, 2005-07-25 Over 30 contributors share their expertise on the chemical, biological, cultural, psychological, and experiential dimensions of psilocybin mushrooms • Describes in vivid detail the consciousness-expanding experiences of psychoactive mushroom users • Provides firsthand accounts of the controversial Harvard Psilocybin Project, including the Concord Prison and Good Friday studies Teonanácatl was the name given to the visionary mushrooms used in ancient Mesoamerican shamanic ceremonies, mushrooms that contain psilocybin, the psychoactive agent identified by Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann, the discoverer of LSD. The rediscovery of these visionary mushrooms by the Mazatec healer Maria Sabina and mycologist R. Gordon Wasson ignited a worldwide mushroom culture that inspired the consciousness revolution of the 1960s. This book

describes in vivid detail the consciousness-expanding experiences of psychoactive mushroom users--from artists to psychologists--and the healing visionary inspiration they received. It provides firsthand accounts of studies performed in the controversial Harvard Psilocybin Project, including the Concord Prison study and the Good Friday study. It describes how the use of the psilocybe mushroom spread from the mountains of Mexico into North America, Asia, and Europe by seekers of consciousness-expanding experiences. It also details how psilocybin has been used since the 1960s in psychotherapy, prisoner rehabilitation, the enhancement of creativity, and the induction of mystical experiences and is being studied as a treatment for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD).

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Religion, and Magical Foods (1995), Newman suggests that practical psychoactive pharmacology, rather than philosophy, lies concealed in the root of some of our allegories and mysteries. Admitting to being more than a mere theoretician, Newman draws from his own personal experiences, and a wide range of sources, in presenting his theory in a logical manner, which merits consideration. - Arturo De Hoyos, 33* Grand Archivist and Grand Historian Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction

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