

Trance Formation

The Spiritual and Religious Dimensions of Global Rave Culture

By Robin Sylvan

I. An Introduction to the World of Raves: Three Scenes

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2. The Full Spectrum of Events: from Warehouse Parties and Clubs to Burning Man and the Love Parade

II. The Spiritual and Religious Dimensions of Global Rave Culture

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Conclusion: Rave New World

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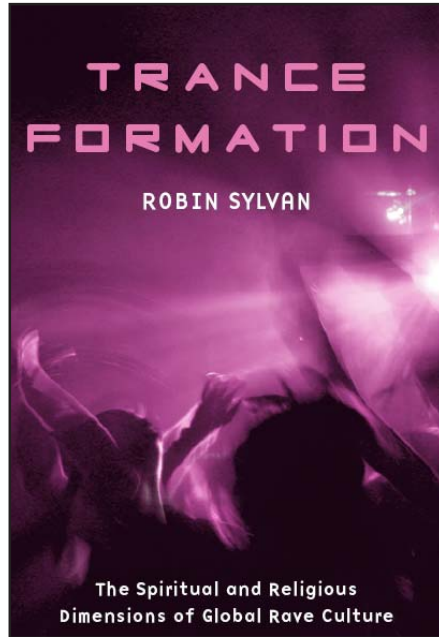
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The Spiritual and Religious Dimensions of Global Rave Culture

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“Millions of people on every continent of planet Earth, regularly coming together in ecstatic trance-dance celebrations held and energized by pulsing electronic beats, are having the deepest spiritual experience of their lives. In this thoroughly fascinating study, religious scholar Robin Sylvan makes a convincing case for regarding the global rave culture as an authentic expression of a unifying spiritual vision that integrates across all languages, religions and nationalities. Reading this book, as well as going to a rave, will leave you inspired and hopeful for our sadly fractured world.”

-Ralph Metzner, Ph.D., co-author of *The Psychedelic Experience* and author of *The Unfolding Self*

Over the course of nearly two decades, the rave scene has evolved into much more than simply an electronic dance music party. For thousands of people around the world, it has become an important source of spirituality and the closest thing they have to a religion. *Trance Formation* is the first book to comprehensively explore the spiritual and religious dimensions of global rave culture.

Robin Sylvan combines colorful firsthand accounts, extensive interviews with ravers, and cutting edge scholarly analysis to paint a compelling portrait of global rave culture as an important new religious and spiritual phenomenon that also serves as a template for mapping the future evolution of new forms of religion and spirituality in the twenty-first century.

Robin Sylvan, Ph.D., is the founder and director of The Sacred Center, a nonprofit educational organization in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is the author of *Traces of the Spirit: The Religious Dimensions of Popular Music*.

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