Remedies for Eco-Technological Catastrophe:

Re-envisioning Psychedelics' Potential for Helping Solve Today's Challenges

Abstract

With the world presently facing an array of conflicting ecological and technological issues, works of psychedelic literature may offer alternative methods toward finding a sounder approach to dealing with the challenges. However, much of the global populace still appears to be in the dark regarding potential benefits of psychedelic experiences, partly resulting from social stigma associated with *psychotomimetic* use during the 1960s and reinforced by former U.S. president Richard Nixon's 1971 "War on Drugs," which politically legitimized their illegalization and misrepresentation in multiple countries. While clinical studies began to re-emerge during the 1990s and scholarly papers in the past decade have iterated positive results for psychedelic treatments of various health-related problems, deeper reflection on the subject can show how psychedelics could potentially do much more, such as offering greater insights that (albeit indirectly) heal the entire planet along with its people.

The path toward realizing these perspectives involves re-envisioning psychedelics grounded on empathy and *enjoyable* purpose, two human characteristics altered states have provided travelers when immersed in the right set and setting, and which have been repeatedly emphasized throughout much of the literature associated with altered states of consciousness. At a time when digital technologies are impacting youth and adults in unprecedented ways, psychedelic research can be a catalyst for drawing "users" out of their screen haze to recognize the fact that we are all connected to the planet as a whole and to each other beyond a sampled (digital) reality.