

CODE OF CONDUCT

Events, Workshops & Experiential Retreats

i

This document applies to all participants, facilitators, researchers, and third-party users of the CLS space. By attending or facilitating a CLS event, you agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

1. Purpose

The Centre for Liminal Studies (CLS) creates space for rigorous inquiry at the intersection of consciousness research, experiential practice, and evidence-based science. Our events — including experiential retreats, research workshops, and public lectures — bring together people with a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. This Code of Conduct exists to make those spaces safe, respectful, and productive for everyone.

2. Core Principles

- **Respect** — treat all participants, facilitators, and staff with courtesy and dignity, regardless of background, belief, or level of experience.
- **Consent** — do not touch, photograph, or record other participants without their explicit permission.
- **Confidentiality** — what is shared within sessions remains within sessions, unless expressly agreed otherwise by the person who shared it.
- **Intellectual honesty** — engage critically and openly with ideas, and distinguish personal experience from evidential claims.
- **Care** — look out for the wellbeing of those around you, particularly during or after altered-state or experiential work.

3. Participant Responsibilities

Before attending, you are expected to:

- Complete any pre-event health screening or consent forms honestly and in full.
- Disclose to the event lead any health conditions, medications, or circumstances that could affect your participation or safety (see the contraindications list on your event information sheet).
- Read any pre-event briefing materials provided.

During the event, you are expected to:

- Follow facilitator guidance, particularly regarding pacing, boundaries, and safety procedures.
- Respect the right of others to have their own experience without interruption or unsolicited interpretation.
- Not use any mains-connected or CLS research equipment unless explicitly invited to do so and briefed on its safe use.
- Remain on-site during altered-state or immersive sessions; if you need to leave, inform a facilitator first.
- Not attend under the influence of alcohol or recreational substances.

4. Altered-State & Experiential Activities

CLS events may include practices designed to facilitate non-ordinary states of consciousness, including but not limited to: sustained meditation, ganzfeld or sensory attenuation, rhythmic drumming, breathwork, and biofeedback. The following principles apply to all such activities:

You always have the right to...	It is not acceptable to...
Stop or step back from any activity at any time, for any reason, with no explanation required.	Pressure or encourage another participant to continue an activity they have indicated they wish to stop.
Ask for grounding support from a facilitator during or after a session.	Interpret or narrate another person's experience during a session without their invitation.
Take as long as you need in the designated integration/recovery space.	Use any recording device during immersive or altered-state sessions.
Decline any element of a session without this affecting your participation in the wider event.	Share or post material about another participant's experience online or elsewhere without consent.

5. Research Activities & Equipment

- Participation in any data-collection or research element is always voluntary and separate from participation in the wider event.
- You will be given a clear explanation of any research procedure and an opportunity to ask questions before taking part.
- Your right to withdraw data at any point, consistent with the CLS ethics framework, will be explained in advance.
- Do not interfere with, adjust, or disconnect research equipment. If you believe a device is malfunctioning, notify the researcher or event lead.

6. Facilitator & Staff Responsibilities

Everyone facilitating an event at CLS — whether CLS staff or a third-party practitioner — is expected to:

- Model the behaviour described in this Code at all times.
- Hold a current first-aid certificate or ensure a qualified first-aider is present.
- Not enter into a professional therapeutic relationship with participants in the context of a CLS event.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries; CLS events are not a setting for personal or romantic relationships to be initiated with participants.
- Report any incident, near-miss, or welfare concern to the CLS safeguarding lead using the CLS Incident Report Form (CLS-IR-001) within 24 hours.

7. Unacceptable Behaviour

The following will not be tolerated at any CLS event or on CLS premises:

- Harassment, discrimination, or intimidation of any kind, including on the basis of gender, sexuality, race, religion, disability, or world view.
- Non-consensual physical contact.
- Deliberate disruption of sessions or research activities.
- Misrepresentation of CLS, its research findings, or its affiliations.
- Unauthorised recording or photography of participants or facilitators.
- Attending while under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed substances.

8. Raising Concerns

If you witness or experience a breach of this Code, or have any welfare concern, please speak to the **Event Lead** immediately. All concerns will be treated seriously and in confidence.

If your concern involves the Event Lead, or if you are not satisfied with the response, contact the CLS Safeguarding Lead directly:

CLS Safeguarding Lead	Kirsty Allan
Email	Kirsty.Allan@centreforliminalstudies.com
Post	Four Arches, Broughton Sanctuary, Broughton, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 3AE, UK

9. Consequences of Breach

CLS reserves the right to remove any person from an event, or from the premises, where they are found to be in breach of this Code. Depending on the seriousness of the breach, CLS may also exclude a person from future events and/or report the matter to the relevant authorities. Third-party event organisers who breach this Code may have their venue access agreement terminated.

Approved by:  on behalf of the CLS Board Date: 25 May 2026

This Code is reviewed annually and following any significant incident.