

David Carrasco on Mircea Eliade

An Interview by Mihaela Gligor¹

[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute.
E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website:
<http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2018 by The Transformative Studies
Institute. All rights reserved.]

Mihaela Gligor: Professor David Carrasco, thank you so much for accepting to speak with me about Mircea Eliade. During the last 10 years I had the honor to meet and work with many former students of Mircea Eliade, and most of them told me that Eliade changed their life. When

¹ **David Carrasco** (Neil L. Rudenstine Professor of the Study of Latin America at Harvard University) is a Mexican American historian of religions with particular interest in Mesoamerican cities as symbols, and the Mexican-American borderlands. His field work in Mexican archaeological zones and his studies with historians of religions at the University of Chicago inspired him to work on the question, “where is your sacred place?”. He also works on the challenges of postcolonial ethnography and theory, and on the practices and symbolic nature of ritual violence in comparative perspective. Working with Mexican archaeologists, he has carried out research in the excavations and archives associated with the sites of Teotihuacan and Mexico-Tenochtitlan resulting in *Religions of Mesoamerica*, *City of Sacrifice*, and *Quetzalcoatl and the Irony of Empire*. Carrasco is a recipient of the “Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle”, the highest distinction the Mexican government awards a foreign national. An award-winning teacher, he has participated in spirited debates at Harvard with Cornel West and Samuel Huntington on the topics of race, culture, and religion in the Americas. For more see <https://davidcarrascohistorian.com/>.

Mihaela Gligor studied Philosophy at Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, where she also received her PhD in Philosophy in 2006, with a thesis about *Mircea Eliade and Romanian Right Extreme*. Now she is Scientific Researcher in the field of Philosophy at Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, “George Baritiu” History Institute, Department of Humanities and Director of *Cluj Center for Indian Studies*, Babes-Bolyai University: <http://indian.centre.ubbcluj.ro/>. Mihaela Gligor is a specialist in Mircea Eliade’s life and work and also interested in Philosophy and History of Religion, Indian Studies, and Interwar History. She is also a member of The Romanian Writers Union and part of Doctoral School of International Relations and Security Studies at Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca. Address correspondence to Mihaela Gligor, e-mail: mihaelagligor@gmail.com.