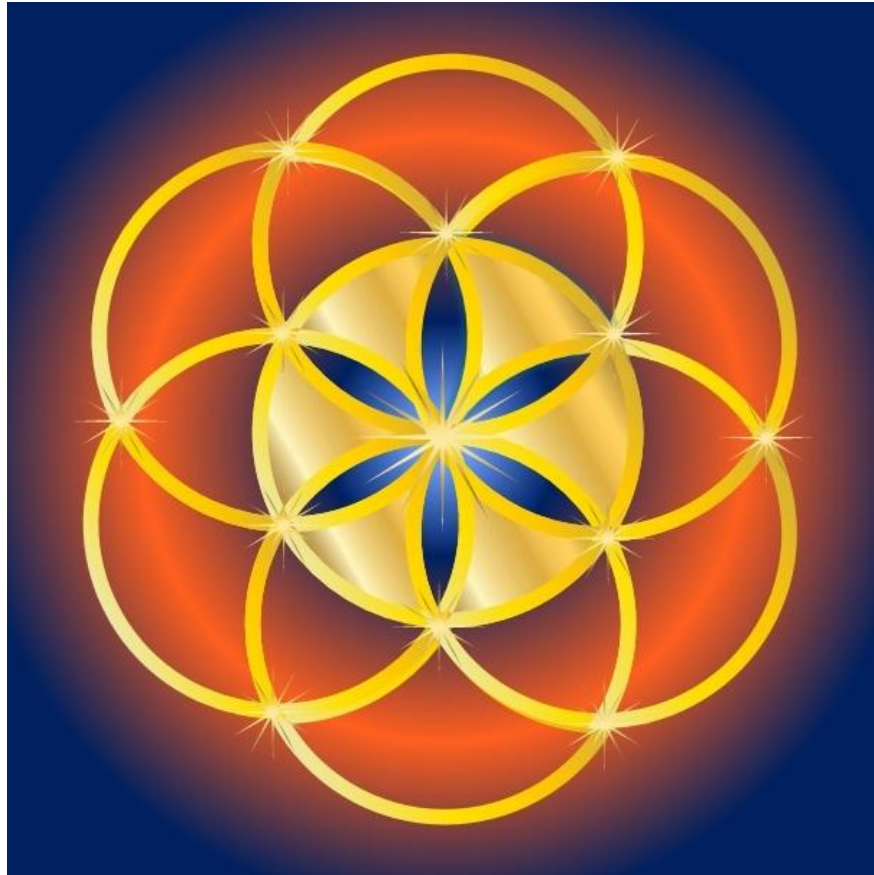


Seed of Life: Athabasca University and Journal of Integrated Studies

Hyeyung Park

The seed of life is a two-dimensional illustration composed of seven equal-sized, overlapping circles. Six circles form the outer ring, connecting with a central seventh circle. This design is not only visually appealing but also carries profound symbolic meaning. Essentially, the seed of life, with its seven interconnected circles, represents the interconnectedness of all life on Earth and universal existence. It also illustrates that all life originates from a single source as part of a divine plan. The Journal of Integrated Studies (JIS), an open-access, peer-reviewed publication affiliated with Athabasca University, offers a vibrant platform for graduate students. Since the JIS began in 2010, it has embodied the spirit of integrated, interdisciplinary, or transdisciplinary exploration, providing a publishing opportunity for graduate students worldwide. This ethos resonates with the symbolism of the seed of life, a sacred geometric figure composed of seven interlocking circles. The colour palette conveys a narrative of accessibility and quality education. The deep navy blue and vibrant orange reflect Athabasca University's visual identity, emphasizing its leadership in distance education. These colours embody AU's mission to remove barriers and provide learners with quality education regardless of location or circumstances. Gold accents integrated into the design symbolize meaningful educational experiences achieved through collaborative and integrated learning.

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Hyeyung Park is a doctoral student at Athabasca University, with a research focus on the integration of AI in distance education. She serves as a mentor, exam developer, and subject matter expert for the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants, where she plays a vital role in advancing the professional development of licensees to ensure the delivery of high-quality, competent services to the public. As a creator of online courses and multimodal learning content, Hyeyung designs and facilitates professional development and online programs in AI pedagogy. In addition to her academic and professional work, she actively contributes to her community as a board member, social media chair, and digital literacy tutor. Hyeyung aspires to teach graduate-level students at the university.
