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## Integral Historiography:

### A New Approach to Chiropractic's History

#### Abstract

Integral Theory was developed by the American philosopher Ken Wilber. The theory is a meta-model that can be applied to any field or discipline including history. The theory has been applied in over 35 academic fields such as philosophy, psychology, cultural anthropology, ecology, healthcare, law, and economics. There are at least two academic journals dedicated to exploring the theory, two graduate programs and an international conference. The theory is versatile due to its inclusion of virtually every known approach to reality in a simple and elegant framework. The framework known as AQAL (pronounced Ah-kwul) includes every domain of human knowledge or more simply every major perspective; 1<sup>st</sup> person perspective, 2<sup>nd</sup> person perspective, and 3<sup>rd</sup> person perspective. Thus, researchers and practitioners alike can use the framework to ensure they covered every angle of their topic thoroughly. In regards to history: 1<sup>st</sup> person perspectives include the individual's internal understanding of events. This could relate to the historical subject or the historian. 2<sup>nd</sup> person perspectives include cultural history, shared meanings, as well as the mutual understanding between the historian and their audience or students. 3<sup>rd</sup> person perspectives include the objective historical facts; what historical figures may have said, written or done, the actual social and economic circumstances, the buildings, events, and social structures involved. An integral approach is comprehensive. All bases get covered. To make it even more complete, Integral theory includes five elements; quadrants, levels, lines, states, and types. Each of these elements can be discussed according to the perspectives mentioned. These elements provide a more detailed way to explore each of these perspectives as one can be assured that they are addressing virtually every possible way that human beings have come to know reality. While any topic can be looked at through the integral framework and certainly any history, chiropractic history is ideal through this lens precisely because it includes all five of those elements in explicit ways and is wrought with controversies often involving clashing perspectives. In recent years, Simon Senzon has been applying Integral Theory to the history and philosophy of chiropractic. Senzon's writings will be used to show how and why Integral Theory is vital to historiography in chiropractic. In the process, a new approach to history is described, Integral Historiography.