



COMMENTARY

Editor's Preface to the Commentary Section

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This section contains further exchange about the evidence and outcomes from the 2021 Bigelow Institute of Consciousness Studies (BICS) essay contest on postmortem survival. As noted in the Introduction to the Summer issue's Special Subsection on BICS (pp. 348–349), heated debates are certainly expected with controversial topics. But exchanges should remain constructive by focusing on cool analysis that aids in arriving at the most appropriate conclusions (see, e.g., Tkotz, J., et al. [2021]. Keep calm in heated debates: How people perceive different styles of discourse in a scientific debate. *Frontiers in Education*, 5, Article 572503. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2020.572503>).

Ad nauseum arguments over competing interpretations of current information are neither useful nor the way forward in this domain. Thus, the *Journal* will not publish further commentaries related to the Special Subsection on BICS but instead only consider conceptual or empirical contributions that substantively advance the conversation. The Editorial team encourages researchers of different ideologies and expertise to engage directly with each other and pursue meaningful discussions, if not collaborations, on new methods, data, and analysis. To my way of thinking, this outcome would constitute the single most important legacy of the BICS essay contest.

