

From Guyana to Global Scholarship: The Vilayam Framework Enters International Peer-Reviewed Psychology

A Guyana-developed conceptual model emerging from decades of humanitarian observation and consciousness inquiry has been accepted by *Frontiers in Psychology*, adding another dimension to Guyana's established contribution to international scholarship.

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Guyana has long produced scholars, researchers, writers and intellectual contributions extending beyond the country's geographical boundaries.

Its national university maintains research programmes across the sciences, social sciences, health, education and technology. The University of Guyana Press describes its mission as publishing peer-reviewed work by scholars and intellectuals and making that knowledge available to academia, civil society, the Guyanese diaspora and wider communities.

The University's Office for Undergraduate Research similarly seeks to develop research capacity across disciplines and support Guyanese students in presenting and publishing research nationally and internationally.

Against this existing landscape of Guyanese knowledge production, another Guyana-developed body of work has reached an international scholarly milestone.

Frontiers in Psychology has accepted for publication “**The Vilayam Framework: A Conceptual Model of Bidirectional Human Development from Devolution to Flourishing,**” authored by **Balram Ātmayana Rishi**.

The manuscript, **MS 1916474**, was submitted on 22 June 2026 to the journal's **Consciousness Research and Mindfulness** section.

Its acceptance brings a scholarly presentation of the Vilayam Framework—developed through a much longer Guyanese humanitarian, observational and institutional history—into international peer-reviewed psychology.

Guyana Was Already Producing Knowledge

The significance of this development should not be misunderstood as suggesting that peer-reviewed research is new to Guyana.

It is not.

The University of Guyana Press was established in 2017 partly to create an outlet for scholarly work produced through Guyana's national university. Its history describes a deliberate emphasis on peer-reviewed books, monographs and journals and on strengthening national, regional and international scholarly networks.

University of Guyana researchers work across numerous disciplines. The University's research repository contains work ranging from social and educational questions to health, natural science, environmental science and technology.

Guyana therefore possesses an existing intellectual and research community to which Vilayam does not stand in opposition.

Vilayam joins that continuing history.

The question raised by its emergence is somewhat different:

What additional forms of knowledge can originate in Guyana and enter the international conversation about human beings, consciousness and development?

From a Guyanese Documentary Corpus to a Conceptual Framework

The accepted Frontiers manuscript did not mark the beginning of Vilayam.

The documentary corpus preceding the journal article records a developmental sequence extending through the **Official Introduction to the Vilayam Tradition, Foundational Formation, Formation of the Observer, Documentary Humanitarian Case Archives, Longitudinal Observations, Journey Before Manifestation, the Vilayam Framework, and subsequent comparative scholarship.**

Across that corpus, Vilayam documents a progression from formative environments and observation to humanitarian encounters, cases, recurring longitudinal patterns, conceptual organization and eventually a formal framework.

The case archive preserves **100 selected humanitarian documentary cases.**

The subsequent longitudinal work examines recurring observations across cases and environments rather than treating isolated experiences as sufficient grounds for universal conclusions.

Journey Before Manifestation then asks a different question: what processes may precede what eventually becomes visible psychologically, behaviourally, physically, relationally, socially or spiritually?

The formal Vilayam Framework subsequently organizes these accumulated observations into a conceptual architecture concerned with developmental direction, participation, devolution, involution, dissolution, return and flourishing.

The chronology matters.

Vilayam's documentary position is that **the framework followed the observations; the observations were not created afterward to prove the framework.**

What Vilayam Is Adding

Vilayam is not presented as a replacement for psychology, psychiatry, neuroscience, medicine, behavioural science, philosophy, contemplative traditions, education or existing humanitarian systems.

Nor does its emergence diminish the scholarship already produced in Guyana or elsewhere.

The Vilayam Tradition describes itself as an **integrated humanitarian science for consciousness.**

Its proposed contribution is therefore integrative.

Psychology already provides substantial knowledge concerning cognition, emotion, behaviour, development, psychopathology and flourishing.

Medicine and neuroscience contribute extensive knowledge concerning biological and physiological processes.

Social sciences examine relationships, institutions, culture and social environments.

Contemplative and philosophical traditions preserve longstanding investigations into attention, suffering, ethics, consciousness and human transformation.

Vilayam brings these conversations into relationship with observations emerging from its own longitudinal humanitarian and contemplative history.

Where correspondence exists, it can be acknowledged.

Where existing disciplines already provide stronger explanations, those explanations can be incorporated.

Where Vilayam organizes known relationships differently, that organization can be examined.

Where Vilayam proposes something additional, it becomes a proposition for investigation rather than a demand for acceptance.

And where evidence eventually contradicts a Vilayam proposition, the framework must remain open to correction.

This is **addition rather than opposition**.

What Is Distinctive About the Question Vilayam Asks?

One recurring orientation within the Vilayam corpus is the movement from visible manifestation toward developmental trajectory.

Rather than examining only:

What has manifested?

Vilayam also asks:

What happened before manifestation?

And:

What conditions and forms of participation may have contributed to maintaining the trajectory?

This does not presume that every psychological, behavioural, physical or social condition has the same origin.

The Vilayam corpus itself distinguishes among biological, psychological, developmental, relational, environmental, social, cultural and other possible contributors and preserves uncertainty where evidence is insufficient.

Its contribution is therefore not the claim that existing disciplines have failed to discover causes.

It is the proposal that an additional **integrative developmental architecture** may help researchers examine relationships among processes that are frequently studied separately.

What Does Peer Review Mean?

For people outside academic institutions, the significance of peer review may not always be obvious.

Peer review places scholarly work before researchers or specialists capable of evaluating its arguments, methods, evidence and relationship to existing knowledge before an editorial decision is reached.

Frontiers in Psychology describes its peer-review system as involving expert reviewers and academic editors, with article-processing charges applying to articles **after acceptance following peer review**.

Acceptance therefore represents external scholarly scrutiny.

It does **not**, however, mean that every proposition contained within the wider Vilayam Tradition has been scientifically validated.

That distinction is essential.

A conceptual paper can introduce and organize propositions sufficiently for other scholars to examine them.

Empirical validation requires another stage: operationalization, measurement, data, replication, criticism and independent research.

Understanding Frontiers in Psychology

Frontiers in Psychology is a multidisciplinary international psychology journal covering fields including consciousness research, cognitive science, health and clinical psychology, personality and social psychology and other areas of psychological research.

The journal currently reports an **Impact Factor of 3.8** and **CiteScore of 7** and is indexed in major scholarly services including **Scopus, Web of Science Social Science Citation Index, PubMed, PubMed Central, PsycINFO and DOAJ**.

Frontiers also currently reports more than **1.2 million citations** across *Frontiers in Psychology*.

These statistics are useful not as measures of Vilayam itself, but to help readers outside academia understand the scholarly environment into which the manuscript has been accepted.

The Publication Fee Does Not Constitute the Acceptance

The Vilayam article has subsequently received a Frontiers article-processing-charge invoice for **CHF 3,150**.

This is part of Frontiers' open-access publishing model.

The sequence is important:

manuscript submission → editorial and peer-review process → acceptance → publication charge → production and publication.

Frontiers explicitly states that APCs apply to articles accepted for publication following peer review.

The publication charge should therefore neither be hidden nor represented as payment for peer-review acceptance.

Why Open Scholarship Matters for Guyana

The ability of scholarship to reach beyond universities is particularly relevant to smaller societies.

The University of Guyana Press itself describes making Guyanese scholarship accessible to civil society and the diaspora as part of its mission.

Its establishment was also connected with a broader concern that Guyanese and Caribbean perspectives should participate directly in intellectual conversations affecting the region rather than remaining peripheral to them.

The Vilayam development can be understood within this larger intellectual aspiration.

It represents knowledge originating through Guyanese experience and institutions moving outward for examination by an international scholarly community.

Caribbean Scholarship Also Matters

This journey does not need to move only from Guyana toward North America or Europe.

The Caribbean possesses its own peer-reviewed scholarly infrastructure.

The **Caribbean Journal of Psychology**, established in 2004, describes itself as an academic peer-reviewed journal focused on Caribbean populations and issues affecting Caribbean people locally, regionally and globally.

Importantly, it encourages publication by Caribbean authors and describes its approach as multidisciplinary, integrating psychology, sociology, social psychology, social theory, history and other approaches to investigating Caribbean human experience.

This provides an important next direction for Vilayam.

International scholarly engagement and Caribbean scholarly engagement need not compete.

They can complement one another.

Is Vilayam a Guyanese “First”?

At this stage, **Vilayam News is deliberately not making that claim.**

Our research identified an established history of Guyanese scholarship and peer-reviewed publication.

We also identified Guyanese and Guyana-related research employing existing theories, conceptual frameworks and scientific methodologies.

Our searches have **not yet identified a directly equivalent earlier example** of a named, Guyana-originated integrative framework concerned with consciousness and bidirectional human development—from devolution toward flourishing—developed through a documented humanitarian corpus and subsequently entering international peer-reviewed psychology.

That is an interesting finding.

It is not sufficient evidence to establish a historical first.

Older scholarship may be incompletely digitized. Relevant work may exist under different terminology. Guyanese diaspora scholarship creates additional questions of intellectual provenance.

Accordingly, claims such as **“first Guyanese psychological framework”** or **“first of its kind in Guyana”** should not be made without stronger historical evidence.

Vilayam does not require such a claim for its contribution to matter.

From Guyana, Alongside Guyana

Perhaps the most appropriate way to understand this milestone is therefore not:

Vilayam versus existing Guyanese scholarship.

It is:

Vilayam alongside Guyanese scholarship.

Guyana's researchers have already contributed to scientific, social, educational, cultural, environmental, medical and intellectual knowledge.

Vilayam adds another line of inquiry—one emerging from an unusual combination of longitudinal humanitarian observation, contemplative inquiry, documentary case material and conceptual development concerned with consciousness and human developmental direction.

Its international acceptance allows that contribution to begin moving beyond its originating institution.

Its Caribbean engagement can place the same work into conversation with scholars closer to its geographical and cultural origins.

And future empirical investigation can determine which of its propositions withstand independent scientific examination.

The Next Stage

The next stage of the Vilayam research programme therefore has several parallel pathways.

The accepted *Frontiers* article will proceed toward production and final publication.

A distinct scholarly manuscript can now be developed for **Caribbean peer review**, examining the Guyanese and Caribbean intellectual provenance of the Vilayam Tradition rather than duplicating the conceptual paper already accepted by *Frontiers*.

And the Vilayam research programme can begin the more difficult process of operationalizing selected constructs for empirical investigation.

These are different milestones.

They should remain different.

Historical documentation establishes provenance.

Conceptual scholarship establishes propositions.

Peer review subjects those propositions to external scholarly scrutiny.

Empirical investigation tests them.

Replication determines whether findings extend beyond their originating environment.

The acceptance of the Vilayam Framework by *Frontiers in Psychology* therefore does not conclude the story.

It marks the transition to another stage.

A body of work developed in Guyana is beginning to enter wider scholarly dialogue—not in opposition to what humanity already knows, but as an additional contribution to the continuing effort to understand consciousness, human development, suffering, transformation and flourishing.

Vilayam News
Vilayam Editors
Guyana

Editorial disclosure: Vilayam News is an institutional publication associated with the Vilayam Tradition. This report therefore distinguishes institutional historical documentation from independent peer review and empirical validation. Acceptance of a conceptual article does not constitute scientific validation of the entire Vilayam Framework or Tradition.