

CORRESPONDENCE

OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA

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“We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it.”

Wendell Berry

**THE CLIMATE NEEDS
OUR CHANGE**
WHAT IS THE EARTH ASKING OF US?
ONLINE COLLOQUIUM

August 28th

Otto Ulrich & Stefan Ruf



See [page 3](#)

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Editor's Note

The last heat wave, my Milk Duds fused together! I need to get this issue out before another upcoming heat wave hits us here in Seattle. I'll be slumped in front of the fan evaporatively cooling. [Here](#) is the link to the Summary for Policymakers from the latest IPCC Climate Report on "The Physical Science Basis" for our changed climate. In the one recording prepared for our upcoming Climate Colloquium (flyer [page 3](#)), Dr. Otto Ulrich begins his presentation with his experiences among policymakers going back to 1972. Dr. Stefan Ruf will address the sort of change of consciousness required of these policymakers and us all. Starting on [page 4](#) you'll find some remarks about these presentations from the 2020 Section conference in Dornach, "The CLIMATE needs our CHANGE."

You will also find News from the Natural Science and Maths Group in Great Britain ([page 6](#)), the Nature Institute ([page 7](#)), and a belated announcement for the 4th Annual MysTech conference ([page 8](#)). Lastly, there is a subtly illustrated cartoon beneath the Calendar on [page 9](#).

For ease of navigation, we have set up the **Contents subheadings as internal hyperlinks** (without underline) and put "Back to top" links at the bottom of each page.

As always, the *Correspondence* welcomes pilot research reports, comments on current scientific research and news, book and article reviews, letters from readers, reports on meetings and workshops, and announcements. There will be editorial review. **For submissions**, click [here](#). We look forward to hearing from you. Please send **feedback** [here](#).

Blessings,

Barry Lia, Ph.D.
Correspondence Editor



Climate Colloquium Series

WHAT IS THE EARTH ASKING OF US?

A series of colloquia building upon the October 2020 Natural Science Section conference at the Goetheanum, “The CLIMATE needs our CHANGE.”

*For the English-speaking world, we are pleased to offer voice-over interpretation of talks originally given in German at the climate conference held at the Goetheanum in October 2020. The conference program was published in our newsletter [here](#) (pp. 4-9). A narrative report appears [here](#) (pp. 4-8). These talks address a **broad audience**, encompassing matters social, pedagogical, economic, psychological, and spiritual, as well as scientific.*

Online Colloquium: Saturday, August 28th (11 am PDT, 8 pm CEST)

Register once for series [here](#). See schedule [here](#).

Colloquium Preparation:

Both presentation recordings will be available for viewing *beforehand*. A link to the two videos on our YouTube channel will be sent to those who have registered, together with your *personal* Zoom link for the colloquium.

First, view the recordings at your leisure *before the colloquium*. Use the YouTube link to be sent to you. Then use the Zoom link sent in an email reminder to join us *online* for conversation touching on intergovernmental policy, the environmental impacts of electric cars and the internet of things, and the sort of “atmospheric consciousness” we must evolve (see next page). Dr. Ulrich is returning from rural Republic of Georgia writing a book on this subject and cannot be with us, but Dr. Ruf does plan to join us as a guest during the online colloquium.

Featured Recordings:



Otto Ulrich *Physics engineer and political scientist. In the Federal Chancellery and the German Bundestag he dealt many years with issues of assessment of the consequences of technology—such as conversion of transportation to electric vehicles and the digitalization of society.*

The magnetic human - "Mother Earth" and natural science

We are ourselves in a yes-but-situation: The always promised triumphal advance of scientific and technical civilization, its promise to achieve the goal of life with a materialistic lifestyle called prosperity, exposes itself as hostile to life, even deadly for the earth as well as for humanity. Earth, nature, and the human being must be viewed together. The healing of the earth requires a perspective of the living, that is, an organic understanding of the earth and the human being. It is important to ask about the possible consequences of digitization on the relationship between the magnetic "Mother Earth" and us, magnetic humans—possibly the gateway to the latest virus pandemic. The view of a forgotten key for the future is renewed: «Earth life». Strengthening the life forces of the earth starts with us, human beings. It is important to protect these forces, to strengthen them, which is only possible if we learn to recognize our responsibility for a *living* future.



Stefan Ruf *Specialist in psychotherapy and psychosomatic medicine and therapeutic director of Mäander Jugendhilfe—an anthroposophical therapeutic residential community outside of Potsdam for youth in mental crisis.*

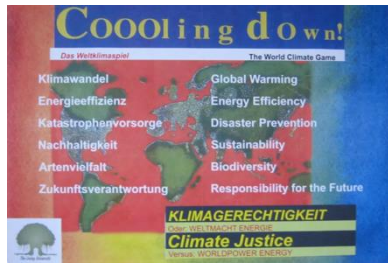
Climate psychology – ways to an “atmospheric consciousness”

The threat of the climate crisis is open to us; the key facts are known. Why are we still not able to draw the necessary consequences for our behavior, privately and politically? What hinders us? And what could potentially help us to take the next step so that the crisis becomes an opportunity, an opportunity to develop an "atmospheric awareness" that helps us to understand more deeply the atmospheric processes with which we are all connected and thus to come into a more global perception.

Look for further announcements from this collaboration of the Natural Science Section of the Anthroposophical Society in America, the Natural Science & Math Group of Great Britain, and the Natural Science Section at the Goetheanum.

Remarks from the Editor on the Featured Presentations

Dr. Otto Ulrich begins with his experience since the Club of Rome days in 1972 in the German Chancellery. How on earth can the world of the experts and the world of the politicians be brought together? As we see yet today, even with the recent IPCC report on the science, science alone is not enough. An interdisciplinary approach is needed. So, Dr. Ulrich assembled a team to develop a climate [board game](#), “Cooling Down.”



[Here](#) is a video trying it out in the classroom, but even policymakers and experts can be sat down with dialogue cards in groups representing 6 world regions at the table. The goal is 50% reduction of GHG emissions by 2050. Groups are called upon to come to agreement to make a binary choice on each card's issue. There are no losers in this game—or we all lose. There should only be community building and greater understanding.

Dr. Ulrich then turns to the climate cost of the electromagnetic ocean in which we now dwell. Ten percent of emissions are due to information technology servers and such. There is also the environmental cost of batteries, etc. And then there is the unaccounted costs of the digital age upon our psyche and physiology. His talk's title might have read “Digital Man.”

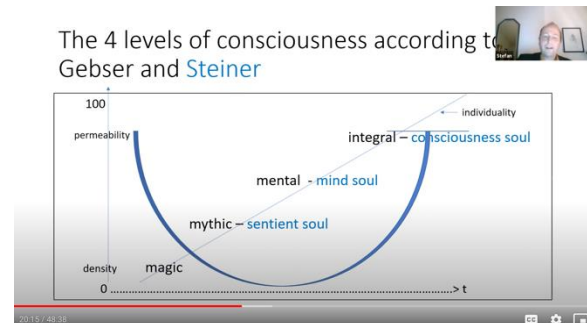


How far are we already directed by machines? Who doesn't have a smart phone in their pocket? Yet the current trend for digitalization will run into its own energy limits. What might a technologically uncorrupted vision of society look like? Can we regulate technological growth? Could there be a regenerative technology?



Dr. Stefan Ruf begins with four qualities of the “atmospheric consciousness” we are called upon to develop: i) a dialectic attitude such that we can bear the reality *and* carry hope at the same time, ii) an awareness of our entangledness with and responsibility towards nature, iii) a systemic thinking encompassing the non-linear nature of ecology, and iv) a different perception for space and boundaries. We may perceive the atmosphere as unlimited, but it is not an unlimited sink for emissions.

In regard to atmospheric space, Dr. Ruf draws upon the dimensionalities of four of Jean Gebser's levels of evolution of consciousness.



Magical consciousness for the Aboriginal Australians ran along song lines, permeable to the world. As people settled, *Mythical* consciousness developed with a standpoint on a two-dimensional world. With the Greeks, the dawning inner world of the individual added a third dimension to *Mental* consciousness. Dr. Ruf then addresses problems and opportunities of the resulting Modern Self and the scheme of modernity. For an *Integral* consciousness, our space must become “curved” in a sense, like the atmosphere we all share. In a workshop, he would be able to demonstrate ways we might engage in the alchemical process to integrate ourselves in the post-modern conflict between our modern and ecological selves.

Excerpts from Ruth Richter's report on the 2020 Autumn Conference (Translation from the German by Judith Erb)

"Cooling Down" – that's the name of a role-playing game developed by **Otto Ulrich**. In it, players representing six world regions work together to achieve the goals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: to achieve 50% reduction in CO₂ by 2050. Through the game, players practice climate justice and responsibility. Ulrich drew attention to three core competencies that are in demand in the game, but also in the real world:

- Ideas come first. The question of how to finance them comes later.
- Don't try to solve all the problems at once. Concentrate on one of them.
- And, perhaps most difficult, don't be conventional.

As a former advisor in the Federal Chancellery, in the German Bundestag, and in the EU Commission in Brussels, he knows what he's talking about.

Ulrich also brought up two controversial topics. He does not believe conversion of transportation to electric vehicles is a realistic possibility, considering that the provision of materials necessary for electricity production and storage have enormous environmental impacts. A substitution of a new form of energy while maintaining the same energy consumption is mathematically impossible. A drastic reduction in energy consumption is necessary. A second topic is the digitalization of society. The price of this virtual approach is that it alienates people from Earth and nature. We also must not forget that these internet technologies, and especially the

gigantic search engines, produce 10% of CO₂ emissions and this trend is increasing. Climate protection must also mean bringing new societal models.

A transformation of consciousness and global relationships, these are the guiding ideas **Stefan Ruf** developed in his contribution as steppingstones on the path to ending the climate crisis. He traced the development of humanity and human consciousness since the beginnings of the Neolithic revolution. Clarification of this provides the key to understanding and addressing the current problem of our divided souls. We still carry remnants of an archaic consciousness when we directly experience nature. Although we experience the beauty, wonder and joy of nature, we bear the burden of the entire evolution of consciousness as we are confronted with the consequences of our social, economic, and political actions. In the time of the consciousness soul lies an unprecedented potential to remove this division. In that we acquire a consciousness of consciousness, we cultivate an "contemplative thinking" which becomes a "spiritual organ" as we come to understand the interaction between inside and outside and develop a Goethean cognitive phenomenology. This atmospheric consciousness, as Ruf calls it, is global—just like the earth's atmosphere. Within such a consciousness lies the insight that Earth is an organism, the organs of which are living beings and we human beings as well. That means: if we change, the whole also changes.



From the Natural Science and Maths Group in Great Britain

Firstly, our annual meeting which will be held at The Field Centre again this year. The programme is not finalised, and we would love to have further presentations, or just introduced discussions especially on the theme but if something else is burning, we will try to make space for it. We will put out a programme nearer the time, but you might like to put it in the diary now.

Natural Science and Maths Group Meeting

November 5th and 6th 2021

Pluralism and complementarity in natural scientific methods.

The Field Centre, Nailsworth, GL6 0QE

We will meet in person, but may also offer Zoom participation for those unable to travel

Friday 5th 7.30pm

Public Talk by Johannes Wirz: "Genetics and gene manipulation, how can we combine analytical and spiritual approaches in developing a holistic understanding?"

Saturday 6th 9am - 4pm

Presentations including Judyth Sassoon: "Materialism and idealism in Natural science, from Darwin's time to ours?"

Discussions, exercises and forming of future intentions for the group.

Natural Science Section Meeting (for members of the School of Spiritual Science)

Sunday 7th 9am - 1pm

Meditative and contemplative practice in research

For more information contact Simon Charter

simon.charter@live.co.uk 07814 786682

Secondly, there is a conference of interest in October organised by Schumacher College:

Holistic Science Conference, October 1-3

The Legacy of Bortoft, Colquhoun and Goodwin

Keynote speakers: Isis Brook and Harvey Shoolman

Presenters: Emma Kidd, Judyth Sassoon, Claudio Stern

Programme schedule: <https://www.dartington.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Holistic-Science-Conference.-2021.v2.pdf>

Details: <https://www.dartington.org/event/holistic-science-conference-the-legacy-of-bortoft-colquhoun-and-goodwin/>

Booking: <https://www.dartington.org/precheckout/?instance=752059>

Pricing: £160 conference with meals, £100 conference only

From The Nature Institute



[Upcoming Events](#)

Hearts and Minds: Reclaiming the Soul of Science and Medicine

Talk by author Walter Alexander

October 14, 7pm

The world, we are told, is made up of particles and forces. Evolution, impelled by the single purpose of survival, is guided by chance through natural selection. DNA directs the chemical-mechanical unfolding of life.

Consciousness and self, artifacts of the brain's firing neurons, are essentially inconsequential.

This is a picture that has been fraying at the edges for some time. Progress in medicine, quantum physics, open-systems biology, consciousness studies, epistemology, the arts, and philosophy all point in a radically different direction. But fresh, coherent narratives have not yet fully emerged out of this progress, and so the old model stubbornly endures.

*Walter Alexander is a New York City-based veteran medical journalist, who covers clinical research across a range of specialties, including cardiology, oncology, and integrative medicine. He is author of the recently published book, *Hearts and Minds: Reclaiming the Soul of Science and Medicine* (Lindisfarne: 2019). The book tells a tale of emerging discoveries — discoveries that restore our own self and consciousness as integral to the workings of the world. He will share with us some of this narrative of discovery.*

Gestures of a Life

Talk by Stephen Talbott

November 12, 7:30 pm

Steve Talbott has been a senior researcher at The Nature Institute since its inception in 1998. For more than 20 years he has been building a body of work that illuminates natural phenomena and calls for a qualitative approach to examining organisms. With characteristic dark humor, Steve describes this farewell presentation as an offering of “notes from desperately unsatisfactory encounters with the living interior of self and world, along with intimations of their meaning for science.”

[Podcast Series](#)

Future episodes of *In Dialogue With Nature* will feature talks and readings *How the Mole Views the World*; *Goethean Practice*; *Seeing the Animal Whole*; *How Our Bodies Are Formed*; *Streams*, and many more topics from our ongoing research. Subscribe to our podcast, follow us on [Facebook](#)/[Instagram](#), or [join our mailing list](#) to receive news of our latest podcast episode.

The Nature Institute | 20 May Hill Road | Ghent, New York, 12075

Announcements



Once the stars spoke to us in antiquity, but now the cosmos is silent,
waiting to hear back from us to speak now back to it.
What will we say? What will it hear?

We are very excited to announce our 4th Annual MysTech Conference is now open for registration. Once again, like last year, the conference will be held online and with such a great lineup of 25 speakers.

Our Anthroposophical work at MysTech seeks to support human evolution. In order to make this widely available, we've set the fee very low for the entire conference of 25 presenters! This entitles you to all recordings for a year. Angel assistance to meet the fee is also available to any who ask.

REGISTER: <https://go.mystech.org/Conference-2021>. The schedule is there too!

Opening the conference this year as the Keynote speaker is Katie Singer, author of the book: *An Electronic Silent Spring*.

Many of the speakers from last year will be joining us again plus many new speakers as well such as: Sebastian Bilboa, Jennifer Gidley, Johannes Kühl, David Tresemer, Brian Gray, Robert Schiappacasse, Eugene Schwartz, Lelan Harris, Lynn Stull, Siegward Elsas, Florian Sydow, Boyd Collins, and many others.

Also, new to the speaker lineup this year:

- Monique Pommier, PhDE: is a psychospiritual counselor, astrologer and independent researcher in private practice in Boston, MA. She is also the author of *Harmony, the Heartbeat of Creation*. Monique will be speaking on *Biogeometry*.
- Robert Filocco: Psychologist in the field of Mental Health since 1986. Robert will speak on *Are UFOs Real?*
- Aaron French: PhD candidate in The Study of Religion, with a designated emphasis in Science and Technology, at the University of California. Aaron will speak on *Is Technology a Necessary Evil?*

With warm regards,
Andrew Linnell for MysTech

Calendar of Events

August 12-15 4th Annual MysTech Conference, online.

REGISTER: <https://go.mystech.org/Conference-2021>.

August 28 Climate Colloquium series: the CLIMATE needs our CHANGE, online.

Featured presentations by Otto Ulrich and Stefan Ruf from the 2020 October conference on climate held at the Goetheanum. Information [here](#). 11:00 PDT, 8:00 CEST

October 1-3 Holistic Science Conference, Schumacher College, UK

The Legacy of Bortoft, Colquhoun and Goodwin (Details [here](#))

October 7-10 Evolving Science 2021, Goetheanum, Dornach

Look for announcements in future. This will mark the 100th anniversary of the Research Institute at the Goetheanum.

October 14 Hearts and Minds: Reclaiming the Soul of Science and Medicine, Nature

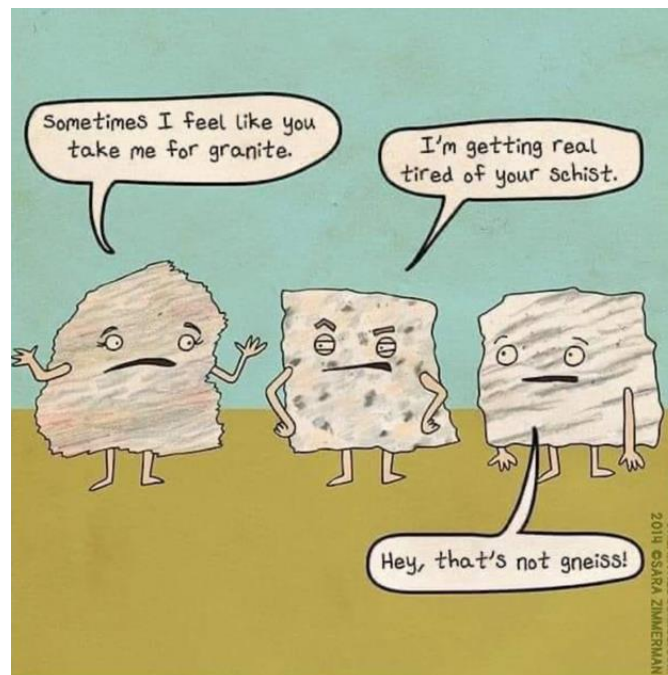
Institute. Talk by Walter Alexander (Info [here](#))

November 5-7 Natural Science and Maths Group Annual Meeting, Field Center, UK.

There may be online components. Contact [Simon Charter](#).

November 12 Gestures of Life, Nature Institute. Talk by Stephen Talbott (Info [here](#))

From our [Facebook Page](#)



Please Support Our Work

Please consider making a financial contribution in support of our mission to bring a discerning and unique perspective on developments in science and technology to the Society's membership and out into today's culture.

The epistemological foundation of anthroposophy is not only a matter of scientific method. Having a strong f

foundation in the scientific basis for a monistic science of spirit-matter is important for a healthy attitude towards conventional science today and to overcome its materialistic bias. This is important for *all* of us working with anthroposophy to further our culture today, be we teachers, farmers, doctors, therapists, artists, entrepreneurs, or anyone seeking to heal the contemporary worldview.

Support for German-to-English translation is especially desired.

**Your donation *of any amount* will help us better serve the Society.
(It is possible to set up recurring monthly donations.)**

To donate, click [here](#) or find a PayPal button on our [website](#).

Or mail check payable to "Natural Science Section" in care of our Treasurer, Barry Lia at:
Anthroposophical Society in America, 1923 Geddes Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Thank you kindly for your consideration.



Natural Science Section

www.forschungsinstitut.ch/en/

Mathematics-Astronomy Section

mas.goetheanum.org/en/mas/

School for Spiritual Science

Anthroposophical Society in America

anthroposophy.org

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