

CORRESPONDENCE

OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA

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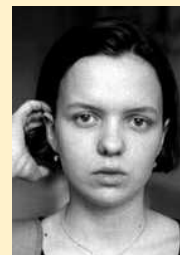
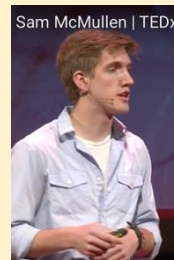
THE CLIMATE NEEDS OUR CHANGE

WHAT IS THE EARTH ASKING OF US?

ONLINE COLLOQUIUM

September 25th

Sam McMullen & Lydia McMullen-Laird



Pauline Lutz

Editor's Note

Yikes! The equinox has already passed and our next climate colloquium is tomorrow! There are two short (18 minutes and 11 minutes) recordings to preview (see [page 3](#)). In the one recording, prepared from the 2020 Section conference in Dornach last October, “The CLIMATE needs our CHANGE,” young activist Pauline Lutz artfully speaks to us, representing the perspective of youth in the progression of conference themes—from science to application to spirit. The second recording is a TED talk by Samuel McMullen, who together with his sister, Lydia McMullen-Laird, co-founded an NGO, *Live Zero Waste*. You’ll find remarks on these presentations on [pages 4-5](#). The conference themes turn from business and policy actions to individual action. As colloquium guests, Sam and Lydia will give a live presentation prior to discussion hosted by Frank Agrama on behalf of the Youth Section.

You will also find “The Avatar Tree” in notes and commentary section ([page 6](#)), as well as announcements from the Geology Group ([page 7](#)) and the Nature Institute ([page 8](#)). Lastly, in light of recent UFO buzz, there is a thought-provoking Far Side 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



Smoke plume somewhere near the Trinity Alps in Northern California on Sept. 11, 2021 (photo: B. Lia)

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, Sept. 25th (11 am PDT, 8 pm CEST)

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

Colloquium Preparation:

First, view the recordings at your leisure *before the colloquium*. A link to Pauline Lutz's video on our YouTube channel will be sent to those who have registered, together with your *personal* Zoom link for the colloquium. Please find the link to Sam McMullen's TED talk [here](#).

Then join us on Saturday for a short presentation by Sam and Lydia about their manner of personal climate action. Frank Agrama will join us on behalf of the Youth Section to help us “talk trash” among young and old(er)!

Preview Recordings:

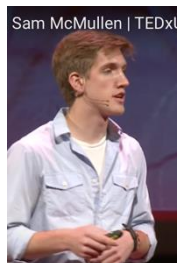


Pauline Lutz finished high school and will now study International Relations in Geneva. She was active in the climate strike movement since the first demonstrations and was part of the Amnesty International youth group during her time at Gymnasium Leonhard in Basel, Switzerland. She now focuses on journalism. To balance her political activities, she writes and plays the cello.

How dare you?

A climate activist tells of her everyday life and a life in which the environmental catastrophe hovers in the back of her mind without a break. She explains why it is so important to her to be heard as a young woman and why we should on principle listen to young people more.

Lydia McMullen-Laird is a radio journalist in New York City covering climate change and the environment. She has been living a zero waste lifestyle since 2015 and is the co-founder of the NGO Live Zero Waste. She attended Steiner Schools in Trier, Germany; Basel, Switzerland; and Ann Arbor, Michigan.



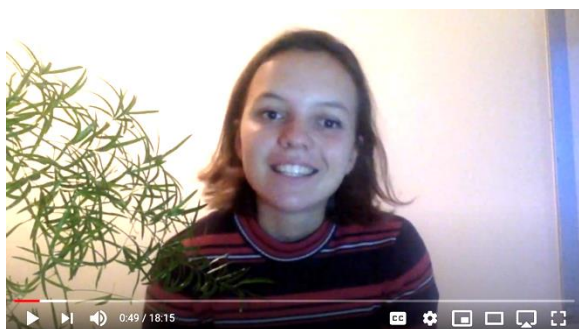
Samuel McMullen works in food sustainability and communications in NYC. Co-founder of Live Zero Waste, he consults with municipalities, events, and businesses on waste reduction. Samuel graduated from the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan.

Choosing a Life without Trash.

Samuel tells his story in a TEDxUofM talk found on the homepage for livezerowaste.org—the organization founded with his sister, Lydia McMullen-Laird. Gain your own awareness—take their challenge to go zero waste for a week, or even a day. Discover their blog and resources for building up a zero waste consciousness in the community.

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



Being on COVID quarantine at the time, **Pauline Lutz** had to give her presentation for last October's Natural Science Section climate conference in Dornach by means of a pre-recorded video. She artfully weaves her remarks together with three poems by Rose Ausländer. "Begin with words that are unbending," reads one line of the poem "Rebellion." And Pauline does so, addressing today's crises and injustices. From the second poem, "the past has formed me\ I have inherited a future." There is fear and trepidation toward transformation. Then Pauline draws to a close with a line from the third poem, "throw your fears to the wind," exhorting us to uphold our ideals.

Unfortunately, Pauline was unable to join us as a guest on our online colloquium as well. She must devote herself to her studies in international relations which she is just beginning in Geneva. Progressing from student activism, she is now hoping to make an impact in journalism.



Samuel McMullen delivers as good a TED talk as any! He points out that our personal trash is only a small part of the waste; most occurs prior to purchase. Our lifestyle separates us from seeing cause and effect. For every pound of trash we make, there are seven pounds upstream! The struggle is won and lost billions of times each day on our decisions. We can have real impact collectively. And on the way, one begins to value relationships over stuff and experiences over things.

Sam and his sister, **Lydia McMullen-Laird**, have co-founded an NGO that has been active in China and elsewhere, [Live Zero Waste](#), based in New York. They've also gotten a zero-waste working group going on the city council in their hometown of Ann Arbor, Michigan. They aim to make zero waste awareness accessible for anyone, providing resources and a blog community. As a journalist, Lydia is concerned with media's role in how one personally approaches the issues. Give living zero waste a shot, even for a day.



Excerpts from Ruth Richter's report on the 2020 Autumn Conference

(Translation by Judith Erb)

The climate crisis can only be resolved through combined contributions from natural science, economics, and social and spiritual science. This was the tenor of the autumn meeting of the Natural Science Section at the Goetheanum bearing the title "The CLIMATE needs our CHANGE." A wealth of viewpoints brought a spirit of optimism as participants expressed their perspectives, concerns, thoughts, and initiatives to the meeting through a variety of discussion formats.

The contribution by climate activist Pauline Lutz, who could only be connected via video message due to a corona case in her circle of friends, matched the mood of the conference: "I don't like to reassure people so that they believe that things can go on as before. But my hope is too great not to want to share it with you," she said at the beginning. She then contrasted the slow progress on implementation of the internationally agreed climate targets with the swift action in response to the corona pandemic, which has brought radical

positive measures for the climate in a short period of time. We must not return to normal but must apply these lessons from the pandemic to speed up our response to climate disruptions.

Pauline cautioned that the fear of leaving one's own comfort zone imprisons us in today's perspective by requiring what seems "economically feasible". Our future demands that we let go of this fear. With a poem by Rose Ausländer [below] she recommended to the audience: "Throw your fear into the air."

This touching message also spoke of a utopia. Might such a vision transform our relationship with Earth? Could we move away from the image of the earth as a limited material resource to be exploited and turned into money? Could we move toward the image of Earth as a living, breathing being with whom humanity participates in a web of dynamic interrelationships? The aim of the conference was to design this picture together. The perspectives were lively and changeable like the image itself. Beginning with the scientific description of the earth as an organism, it turned to the options for action that have already been taken in some areas including pedagogy, agriculture, and economics. From the human cultural situation, it turned to the possibilities for psychological and spiritual transformation of the individual.

Noch bist du da
Rose Ausländer

Wirf deine Angst
in die Luft

Bald
ist deine Zeit um
bald
wächst der Himmel
unter dem Gras
fallen deine Träume
ins Nirgends

Noch
duftet die Nelke
singt die Drossel
noch darfst du lieben
Worte verschenken
noch bist du da

Sei was du bist
Gib was du hast

You are here, still
Julia K. Stein, translation

Throw your fear
into the air

Soon
your time is over
soon
heaven grows
under the grass
your dreams fall
into nowhere

Still
the carnation smells sweetly
the thrush sings
still you may love
give words away
you are here, still

Be what you are
Give what you have.

Notes and Commentary

Note from Barry Lia

Nature Institute podcast by Jon McAlice

"Resonant Space—A Goethean Approach to Understanding"

<https://www.natureinstitute.org/podcast/in-dialogue-with-nature>

[@47 minute mark; close to verbatim notes]

"For the first time I think I really understood what this is all about. It's not just about a different way of knowing the same things. That wasn't Goethe's path. It's not just a different way of describing things and coming to new insights. It's a way of knowing that moves you into an intimacy with the world that expresses itself in me as this impetus to take care. It's a science of caring, not a science of knowing.

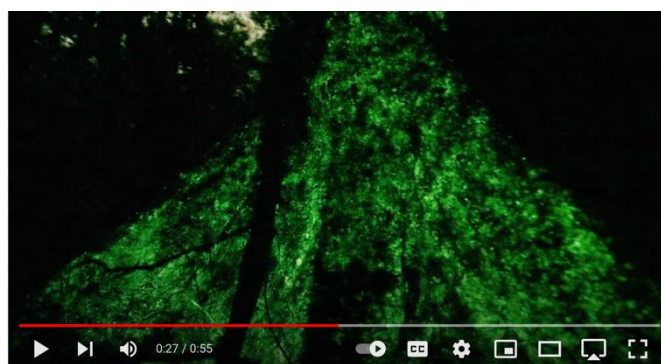
"And yet that caring wouldn't come if we didn't take it through that needle eye of knowing. If we didn't have the distance, we would never be able to choose to care. With so much happening in the world and so many wonderful inventions and technological advances, you could say—a science who's primary focus is to awaken the capacity to care.

"How will you ever market it? But *this* is what it's all about. This is our path. This is the gift that we've been given to take care of. To be able to practice this moving-into-relationship-with."

McAlice closes his talk quoting from *"The Invitation"* by Barry Lopez (<https://granta.com/invitation/>), who writes of his being with indigenous friends in an encounter with a bear: "For me, the bear was a noun, the subject of a sentence; for them, it was a verb, the gerund 'bearing'." For his companions it was a sensing of all happening around that 'bearing' in the surroundings at the moment and in the time prior and in the time to come: "A grizzly bear stripping fruit from blackberry vines in a thicket is more than a bear stripping fruit from blackberry vines in a thicket. It is a point of entry into a world most of us have turned our backs on in an effort to go somewhere else, believing we'll be better off just *thinking* about a grizzly bear stripping fruit from blackberry vines in a thicket. The moment is an invitation, and the bear's invitation to participate is offered, without prejudice, to anyone passing by."

Note from Barry Lia

This screen shot does no justice to [this short video](#) of a magical phenomenon in the mountain rain forests of Costa Rica. The camera pans up the trunk of an "Avatar Tree" covered by bioluminescent mycelium when the conditions are just right. The videographer is featured in an NPR [article](#), "Enthusiastic Amateurs Advance Science As They Hunt For Exotic Mushrooms."



THE AVATAR TREE

6,603 views • May 3, 2021

183 1 SHARE SAVE ...

Announcements

From the Geology Group

Topic: Minnesota Minerals Presentation by Frank Fawcett

Early this August, Frank took a four-day drive through upper Minnesota to look at the older rocks exposed there—many with radioactive-dating ages of 2 billion years—as well as large iron deposits. This had been on his bucket list for twenty years. His trip also passed through the "driftless" area of Wisconsin, which the glaciers mysteriously went around, and has its own geological interest.

Frank would like to share his experiences and findings from the trip on our next geology zoom meeting, Monday, October 4th. It should not take the whole meeting, leaving time for someone else to give a report if so inclined. Just let James Lee (971-235-6230) know ahead of time how much time you would like, and we'll work out the time partition.

Time: Monday, Oct. 4, 2021 [Daylight Savings Time (where observed) and British Summer Time]

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (PDT)

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (MDT)

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CDT)

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (EDT)

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (UTC-4)

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (UTC-3)

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM (BST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86536572005?pwd=d3ZDdGZ5ZE5TaGZoS2tmeGFqdGVCdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 3657 2005

Passcode: 512484



Tablet Rock Overlook in Wisconsin's Devils Lake State Park, located in the Baraboo Range
Wikipedia ([Attribution](#): Corey Coyle)

From The Nature Institute



Encountering Nature and the Nature of Things Foundation Course in Goethean Science 2022-2023

Open for **Applications**
until Feb. 1, 2022*



March 1 – June, 2022: nonresidential introductory guided study

June 20 – July 2, 2022: first residential intensive

August, 2022 – June, 2023: nonresidential guided study and independent research project

June 19 – July 1, 2023: concluding residential intensive

Core Faculty: Craig Holdrege, Henrike Holdrege, Jon McAlice, John Gouldthorpe



This unique program offers the challenge and the opportunity to move beyond the static, object-like abstractions of contemporary thought toward a fluid, transformative way of perceiving and thinking. When we begin to apprehend the dynamic and relational nature of the world, we embark on a scientific pathway to its living qualities.

With the will to *learn from the phenomena*, we can develop what Goethe called “delicate empiricism.” This demands practice and the willingness to confront ingrained habits of thought that prevent us from experiencing nature as creative activity. Overcoming such habits and developing new flexible ways of seeing and thinking are not matters of surface change. They call for an in-depth transformation, something this program aims to facilitate.

The course is for individuals who are deeply interested in nature and serious about developing an understanding and practice of the science of phenomena, an approach that is contextual, qualitative, and holistic — what we often call “Goethean science.” For example, the program offers scientists, educators, farmers, medical practitioners, and undergraduate or graduate students the opportunity to develop practices that can instill new life into their work. We expect participants to have some previous familiarity with this approach.

* Since there is limited space in the course, we recommend that people apply early. The course may fill before the February 1, 2022, application submission deadline. You can read more about the program [here](#).

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

Calendar of Events

September 25 *Climate Colloquium series* online.

Featured presentation by Pauline Lutz from the 2020 October climate conference held at the Goetheanum, and TED talk about the Live Zero Waste project of Sam McMullen and Lydia McMullen-Laird. 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

This will mark the 100th anniversary of the Research Institute at the Goetheanum. Information [here](#).

October 14 *Hearts and Minds: Reclaiming the Soul of Science and Medicine*, Nature Institute. Talk by Walter Alexander (Info [here](#))**October 23 *Climate Colloquium series* online.**

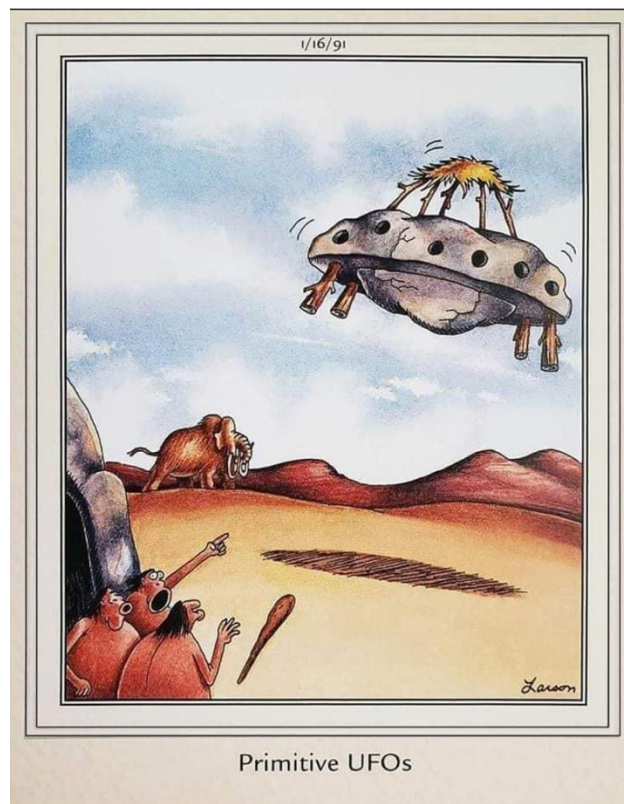
Live presentation by Johannes Kühl. Information [here](#). 11:00 PDT, 8:00 CEST

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 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

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Mathematics-Astronomy Section

mas.goetheanum.org/en/mas/

School for Spiritual Science

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