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LIVESTREAM October 7-10

EVOLVING SCIENCE 2021See [page 3](#)

***Steering Committee
Of the Natural Science/
Mathematics-Astronomy Section***

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

ONLINE COLLOQUIUM
October 23rd

Live video presentation

Change Yourself:
Strenuous—Painful—Magnificent!

Johannes KühlSee [page 4 & 5](#)

Editor's Note

Urgent announcement:

During this *Evolving Science 2021* conference, **October 7-10**, keynote speakers will be *livestreamed*! That new development is good news, since it's currently unclear whether we *could* even travel to attend this triennial international conference held by the Natural Science Section at the Goetheanum in Dornach since 2015. See [page 3](#).

We also look forward to the culminating event in our Climate Colloquium Series, featuring a *live* video presentation and conversation with Johannes Kühl. See [page 4 & 5](#).

Learn about the new book from Craig Holdrege, *Living Perennality: Plants, Agriculture, and the Transformation of Consciousness* ([page 6](#)). And don't miss another cartoon from our Facebook page ([page 7](#)). We are always grateful for your generous support ([page 8](#)).

For ease of on-screen 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,

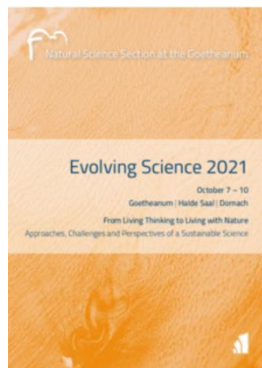
Barry Lia, Ph.D.
Correspondence Editor



Waffles make fine trail food in Pacific Northwest rain!
(photo: Emilia Lia)



Goetheanum Section News



Flyer for download

Evolving Science 2021

From Living Thinking to Living with Nature – Approaches, Challenges and Perspectives of a Sustainable Science

*Autumn Conference of the Natural Science Section
at the Goetheanum (and [livestream](#) internationally)
7 - 10 October 2021*

Dear Friends of the Natural Science Section at the Goetheanum!

The Research Institute at the Goetheanum has been working on the spiritual extension of the natural sciences for 100 years now. The research methods and objects have undergone quite a metamorphosis during this time – from image-creating methods to depicting the temporal form of the plant, from the applications of morphology for finding remedies to characterizing genetically modified plants, from a new optics of images to the presentation of Goethe's inverse spectrum. An overview with examples will be presented at the beginning of the conference.

Identity Inwards

On the first and second day, the human-forming potential of Goethe's approach to science – as an educational path – will be addressed. In addition to the original concern of making visible the forces at work in the living, there is the awareness that scientists – following Goethe's approach – must transform themselves into methodological instruments, because the interior of nature – its laws – can only appear in the human being. Only when I know the part, I play in what appears before me can I adequately connect the world of senses with the world of thought in cognition. Conversely, the world of senses and the thought content experienced in it are the basis for forming the certainty of knowledge in a scientifically founded anthroposophy.

Identity Outwards

Goetheanism demands that the object of research be experienced in its comprehensive context. This includes the historically developed scientific research community. Our work rests on the shoulders of our predecessors. Every approach that broadens our perspective enriches the picture of the whole. This view leads to a pluralism in science, which is the focus of the second evening. A look at the history of science shows that no result remains valid outside its defined context. When results are directly translated into socially relevant action, a problematic generalization can take place.

Visions

The crisis of the earth is also the crisis of mankind – the ecological crisis and the current pandemic are like two sides of the same coin. The third day will focus on the science of interrelationships. Evo-Devo, microbiology and ecology demand and promote a contextual and procedural way of thinking, such as the one Goethe postulated for the knowledge of living things. The contributions on Sunday illuminate the connection between our mental "deeds" and the processes in nature. A creative will and a wealth of mental concepts make abundance and diversity of life possible. From this point of view, a Goethean science of nature is not a "luxury good" but a "life insurance" for the common future of earth and man, and at the same time it is a source for individual spiritual self-development.

Format

- New this time, **keynote speakers will be on livestream**. (Recordings available to registrants at a later date.)
- As with **"Evolving Science 2015 & 2018"**, there will be **project presentations** and **workshops**. (These will not be livestreamed.)
- The conference will be bilingual in **German** and **English**.
- If participation is not possible for financial reasons, please do not hesitate to contact us: science@goetheanum.ch

We look forward to your participation!

Johannes Kühl, Susanna Kümmell, Matthias Rang, Ruth Richter, Carolin Schürer, Meinhard Simon, Johannes Wirz & Mara Born

Register [here](#).

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, Oct. 23rd (11 am PDT, 8 pm CEST)

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

Colloquium Format:

Jennifer Greene will introduce Johannes Kühl, who will give a *live* video presentation in English, reprising his contribution last October to the Section’s climate conference in Dornach. Judith Erb will monitor the chat and Q&A for questions and will host our conversation following the talk.

Featured Presenter:



Johannes Kühl

Born 1953 in Hamburg. After Waldorf School and civil service in agriculture, study of physics, mathematics, and chemistry in Hamburg and Göttingen. Subsequently, senior teacher at the Waldorf School Stuttgart Uhlandshöhe from 1982 to 1996. Since 1982 member of the research collegium of the Natural Science Section at the Goetheanum in Dornach. From 1996 to 2019, head of this Section. He now has a leadership role in the School for Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum. Work on Goetheanistic optics and color theory, various areas of physics and science as well as on physics teaching.

Change yourself: strenuous - painful - magnificent!

The aim of the contribution is to investigate to what extent the technical age challenges an inner, cognitive (spiritual) development—which difficulties and possibilities are associated with it, and which paths are available.

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.

Live video presentation by Johannes Kühl

We are grateful to Johannes that he asked to be with us live by video link on Saturday, October 23rd to reprise his presentation given last October at the Natural Science Section's autumn conference, "The CLIMATE needs our CHANGE." This will be the culminating event in our Climate Colloquium Series of online offerings to the English-speaking international audience based upon presentations given in German at that 2020 conference in Dornach.

The series of presentation topics progressed from the science of climate through the ages, to remedial approaches in agriculture, to promising transformations in corporate economy and production, to youth protest and response, to the psychological responses to technology and climate change, and now, with Johannes's presentation, to the spiritual change afforded by anthroposophy.

We hope you will join us in conversation after Johannes's talk.

It has been a labor of love and a learning journey for our team of collaborators from the Natural Science Sections in the States, in Great Britain, and in Dornach. We hope that the recordings and discussions we have produced may serve as an archive for future use. We also aim to continue such efforts for English language translation, in order to reach a broader international audience with the leading work in Europe. In future, we hope that newsletters, journals, and conference materials now presented only in German may be made available in English translation.

We aim eventually to transform the Section's biannual journal, *Elemente der Naturwissenschaft*, into a fully bilingual journal with facing pages in German and English. We have received generous donations supporting our work so far, but translation for such a project will be expensive. If you know of funding or translation resources, please contact editor@naturalsciencesection.org.

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

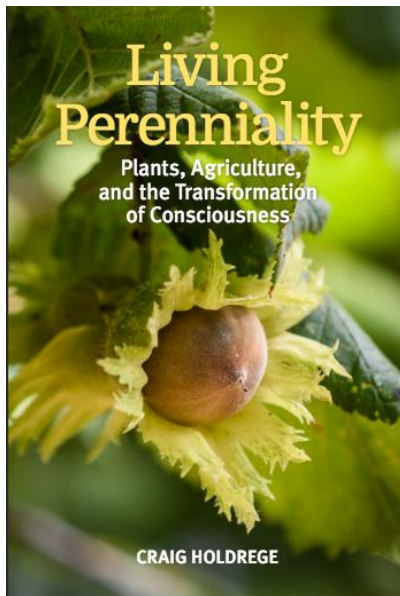
At the conclusion of the conference, Johannes Kuhl described the path to our *change* as being strenuous, painful, and magnificent—like learning an art, it requires practice, practice, crisis, further practice, always anew. A lasting change of habits is not achieved through regulations, not even self-imposed. The entrance lies in the transformation of one's own sensitivity: By cultivating thoughts about others and their needs, I nurture within myself a loving interest through which I find pleasure in doing what I consider is responsible and beneficial for the whole. An atmospheric consciousness

can arise in the intimate reference to nature in meditation. Mobilizing inner transformational forces—that we can take into our own hands. This message was encouraging for the motivation of the participants to address the split in their lives between rational insight into the need for change and the short-term urge to maximize their own well-being—to address it with the global awareness that what I inflict upon another person's suffering, I inflict upon myself.



Announcement

From The Nature Institute



Living Perenniality

Plants, Agriculture, and the Transformation of Consciousness

Craig Holdrege

Middlebury, Vermont: New Perennials Publishing, 2021

\$12 (softcover, 64 pages; also available as a [free pdf download](#))

[Order from our bookstore](#)

From the book's Prelude:

This book weaves together the study of annual and perennial plants, agriculture and its origins, and riddles of human consciousness. The intent that connects these seemingly different topics is my overall striving to discover and articulate ways of moving from learning *about* nature, to learning *through* or *with* nature. I'm concerned with the development of capacities to perceive, think, and act in ways that are in sync with the dynamics of the living world.

We can learn a great deal from plants about the nature of life. In my research for this book, I took the notions of annual and perennial plants as lenses to consider how plants live and interact with the larger environment. It is relatively easy to study different plant species and to categorize them: this is an annual and that is a perennial. It is also fairly boring. The research became especially interesting when I started to see ways in which annuals have perennial characteristics and perennials have annual characteristics. "Annual" and "perennial" were then no longer categories (conceptual containers) that stood side by side. Increasingly they showed themselves as relational qualities of life itself. I was able to see the dynamics of plant life in new ways. In Chapter 2, I begin this exploration of annualness and perennialness in wild plants and expand it through the course of the book.

The focus on agriculture begins in Chapter 3 with an overview of annual and perennial food crops. . . . Many scholars have concerned themselves with the beginnings of agriculture and formulated a variety of theories and conjectures about what led people to shift from hunting and gathering food to growing and breeding crops. . . . From an ancient or indigenous perspective (broadly seen, and ignoring for the moment all the nuanced variations), reality consists of a weaving of beings and animate forces. The human being as one being among many is caught up in that weaving. Nature is not an impersonal "out there," separate from a personal "in here." I discuss how the development of modern science since the 17th century consummated a shift in the Western world from experiences of nature as animate and spirit-filled to the conviction that nature, at its foundation, consists of lifeless forces and matter. Impersonal cause-and-effect relations, not beings, rule the universe. Today life is thought to be built up out of mechanisms. The inanimate, not the animate, has become primary.

Calendar of Events

October 23 *Climate Colloquium series: the CLIMATE needs our CHANGE*, online.

Live video presentation by Johannes Kühl from the 2020 October conference on climate held at the Goetheanum.

Information [here](#). 11:00 PDT, 8:00 CEST

October 7-10 *Evolving Science 2021*, Goetheanum, Dornach

Register for *livestream* [here](#). This will mark the 100th anniversary of the Research Institute at the Goetheanum.

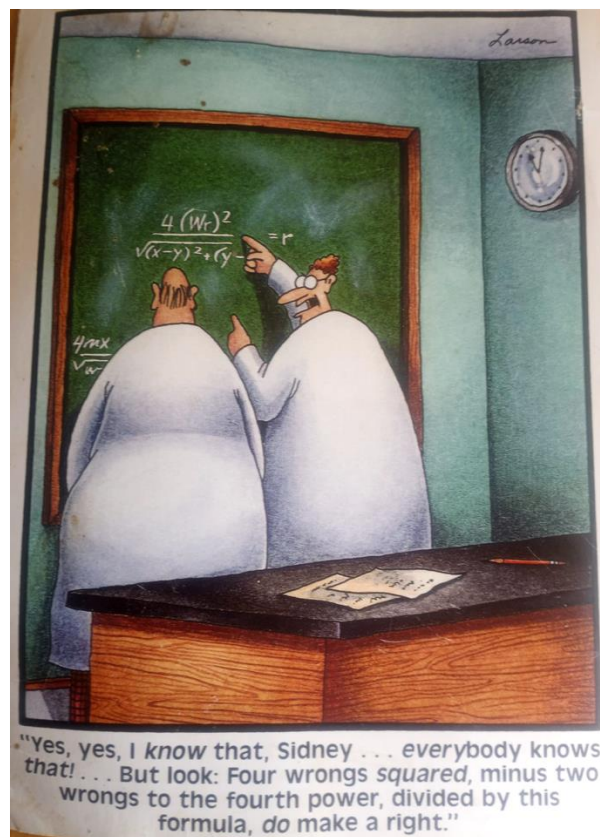
October 14 *Hearts and Minds: Reclaiming the Soul of Science and Medicine*, Nature Institute. Talk by Walter Alexander (Info [here](#))

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 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

www.naturalsciencesection.org

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Website issues: info@naturalsciencesection.org

Treasurer: Barry Lia, c/o Anthroposophical Society in America, 1923 Geddes Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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