

Aspen Public Radio, California Institute of Integral Studies,
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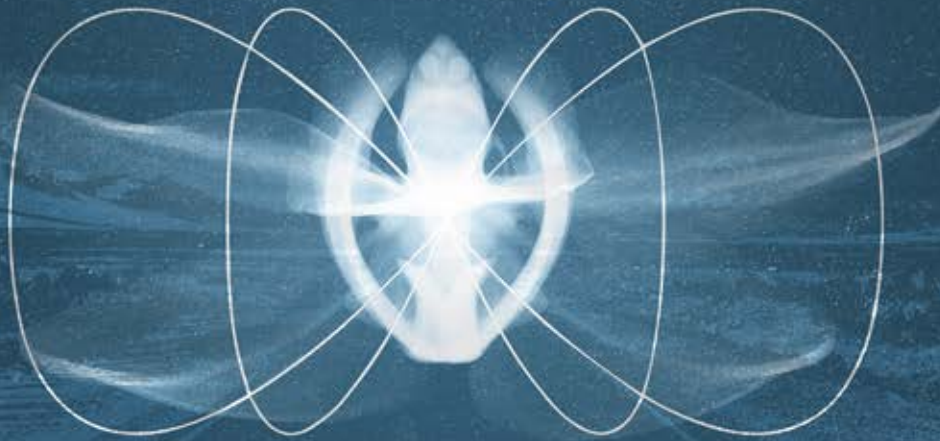
FRONTIERS *of* KNOWLEDGE

DAY-LONG SYMPOSIUM | ASPEN, CO

SEPTEMBER 13

9AM – 5PM | Wheeler Opera House

The return of meaning and wholeness.



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philosophers, and visionaries to explore the evolving
narrative of our universe and consciousness.



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Candice Carpenter Olson
FOUNDER, FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE

Dear participants,

We truly appreciate your commitment to be here, to consider together the big questions around which all meaning revolves: what is the nature of the universe; how did life come to be; how do our minds and brains relate to each other; what can we learn from the long and unfinished journey—sometimes fraught—of our Western tradition, from contemporary consciousness studies, and from the more-than-human world that surrounds and interpenetrates us. I believe these are the kinds of questions Walter Paepcke hoped we would ask, living as we do in a magical mountain kingdom.

We also want to welcome the world-renowned speakers guiding us through these considerations. They were chosen for their deep knowledge, their ability to communicate with enthusiasm, and their basic human qualities. Although most of these speakers know each other, this is the first time they have all shared the stage at a single event, making this a global first we are proud to offer the Roaring Fork Valley community.

Please bring your most open and curious self and share your questions. During breaks, explore books you might never have considered, with one of the speakers to guide you through the titles. For lunch, Sway (next block) has offered delicious lunches (discounted) and there are many other offerings nearby—just let them know you are in a hurry, so you don't miss a single speaker. After the symposium, if you are not attending the Patron Dinner at Sant Ambroeus, please consider heading over to the Limelight living room to keep the conversation going over wine and a casual meal.

I want to thank the organizations that co-produced this event. Our benefactor, The Mays Family Foundation, gave us the confidence to make this real and allowed us to price tickets to make the event accessible. Aspen Public Radio, with love and thanks to Breeze Richardson, brought its capacity to run successful events on important topics. The Center for MINDS and the California Institute of Integral Studies are both unique and important organizations bringing fresh resources to the challenges that face us today.

For any event in the Roaring Fork Valley, the support of community is crucial. This inaugural event, the first of many, has come together through the effort of many people excited to support a deeper level of conversation: Randall Mays, Eden Vardy, River and Shayne Morgan, Michaela Carpenter, Monica Vidal, Anne White, Gina Murdock, Emily Taylor, Celia Gregory, Ron Beller, Nicole Lindstrom, Megan Tackett, Josh Behrman, and many others. We are also grateful for the support of three special organizations in the valley: Connection is the Medicine Foundation, Aspen Psychedelic Resource Center, and the Center for Human Flourishing. And you will see the logos of our valued sponsors in this Program Book and throughout the day.

These and other community members have truly made this a valley-wide celebration of wholeness and belonging as a basis for creating a world we all long to bring into being.

With gratitude to all,
Candice Olson

If you feel inspired to support this ongoing series,
please contact: CANDICECARPENTEROLSON@GMAIL.COM

If you would like to be on the email list for future events,
please sign up in the lobby or visit: FRONTIERSOFKNOWLEDGE.ORG

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9:00 AM Welcome and Introductory Remarks

9:15 AM **PANEL 1**

The Journey of the Universe

with Brian Thomas Swimme, Mary Evelyn Tucker and Jude Currivan

Following initial remarks, Brian Thomas Swimme will moderate a discussion between the panelists, and facilitate audience Q&A.

11:00 AM **PANEL 2**

The Origin of Life

with Bruce Damer and Matthew David Segall

Following initial remarks, Candice Olson will moderate a discussion between the panelists and facilitate audience Q&A.

1:30 PM **PANEL 3**

Mind, Brain and the Unfinished Journey of the Western Mind

with Iain McGilchrist and Richard Tarnas

Following initial remarks, Andrew Davis will moderate a discussion between the panelists and facilitate audience Q&A.

3:15 PM **PANEL 4**

The More-Than-Human World

with David Abram

Following these remarks, Candice Olson will facilitate audience Q&A.

3:45 PM **PANEL 5**

Consciousness and the New Worldview

with Jeff Kripal and Jake Sherman

Following initial remarks, Sam Kimbriel will moderate a discussion between the panelists and facilitate audience Q&A.

4:45 PM Closing Remarks

5:00 PM Patron's Dinner at Sant Ambroeus*

**Ticket Required | 201 E Main Street, Aspen, Colorado*

You'll be able to share today's discussions!

Aspen Public Radio is recording all of the symposium sessions to archive online at ASPENPUBLICRADIO.ORG/SPEAKERS

The Journey of the Universe

with Brian Thomas Swimme, Mary Evelyn Tucker, and Jude Curriuan

As one reviewer of *Journey of the Universe* wrote, “the co-authors managed to fit 14 billion years of grandeur along with humanity’s most fundamental questions into small spaces...” Go on the ride of a lifetime, from the beginning of this universe to the present, with each chapter—atoms, stars, galaxies, plants, animals, and humans all making their dramatic appearance, each expressing the unfolding intelligence of the cosmic process. Learn how quantum physics unveils a more deeply interconnected universe in which mind and matter cannot be understood as separate, and in which humanity is called to step into a wider and deeper perspective and sense of care.

Following initial remarks, Brian Thomas Swimme will moderate a discussion between the panelists, and facilitate audience Q&A.

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Jacob Sherman



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Rae Johnson



Becca Tarnas



Matthew Segall



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Brian Thomas Swimme

Brian Thomas Swimme is Emeritus Professor of Cosmology in the Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness department at California Institute of Integral Studies and Director of the Third Story of the Universe at Human Energy, a public benefit non-profit that focuses on scientific and interdisciplinary research on the future of human collective consciousness. Swimme did his doctoral work in gravitational dynamics at the University of Oregon. He is the host of the Emmy-award winning PBS special *Journey of the Universe*, written with Mary Evelyn Tucker. Swimme's *Cosmogenesis: An Unveiling of the Expanding Universe* is an early example of the autocosmology genre combining contemporary science and cosmological phenomenology. His recent book, written with Monica DeRaspe-Bolles, illustrated by Sebastian Swimme, and commissioned by Human Energy, is a companion to the YouTube series with the same title, *The Story of the Noosphere*.

 [STORYOFTHEUNIVERSE.ORG](https://storyoftheuniverse.org)



Mary Evelyn Tucker

Mary Evelyn Tucker is co-director with John Grim of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology. They are affiliated faculty with the Yale Center for Environmental Justice at the Yale School of the Environment, organized 10 conferences on World Religions and Ecology at Harvard, and were series co-editors for the 10 resulting volumes from Harvard. Her research area is Asian religions and they co-edited *Confucianism and Ecology*, *Buddhism and Ecology*, and *Hinduism and Ecology*, along with authoring *Ecology and Religion* (Island Press, 2014) with Grim, co-editing the *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Ecology* (2017) with Willis Jenkins, and co-editing a series on Ecology and Justice from Orbis Books. She has co-created six online courses in *Religions and Ecology: Restoring the Earth Community*, which includes Indigenous religions, Western religions, and Asian religions.

 [FORE.YALE.EDU/ABOUT-US/WHO-WE-ARE/OUR-TEAM](https://fore.yale.edu/about-us/who-we-are/our-team)



Jude Currivan

Jude Currivan is a cosmologist, planetary healer, futurist, award-winning author, film maker and co-founder of WholeWorld-View. She was previously one of the most senior businesswomen in the UK directing operations in 36 countries, has a Master's degree in Physics from Oxford University specializing in quantum physics and cosmology, and a PhD in Anthropological Archaeology from the University of Reading researching ancient cosmologies. She has travelled to some 80 countries and worked with wisdom keepers from many traditions. She is a life-long researcher into the nature of reality, integrating leading edge science, research into consciousness and universal wisdom teachings into a wholistic worldview, author latterly of *The Cosmic Hologram* (2017) and *The Story of Gaia* (2022), filmmaker of *A Radical Guide to Reality* (2024), Council Member of the Evolutionary Leaders Circle and Associate Member of the Club of Rome. In 2017 she co-founded WholeWorld-View to serve and communicate an emergent unitive worldview and empower conscious evolution.

 [JUDECURRIVAN.COM](https://judcurrivan.com)

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The Origin of Life

with Bruce Damer and Matthew David Segall

Dr. Bruce Damer, an origin of life scientist, has helped develop a leading hypothesis on life's emergence—a model that moves beyond simplistic “lightning strikes primordial soup” scenarios toward processes involving community dynamics and emergent complexity. His collaborator, process philosopher Matt Segall, places this empirical research in a cosmological context that allows us to understand how consciousness and agency evolved. Together, they exemplify a paradigm shift across scientific disciplines that transcends traditional boundaries between physics, chemistry, and biology while addressing both the “how” and “why” of life's origins—a collaboration where empirical investigation and metaphysical inquiry integrate to form a more complete understanding of our cosmic story.

Following initial remarks, Candice Olson will moderate a discussion between the panelists and facilitate audience Q&A.

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Bruce Damer

Bruce Damer is Canadian-American multidisciplinary scientist, designer, and author. Working as an Astrobiologist, Dr. Damer collaborates with colleagues developing and testing a new scenario for the origin of life on Earth and where it might arise in the universe. As a designer he has provided innovative spacecraft architectures to NASA and others which could provide a viable path for the expansion of life and civilization beyond the Earth. Dr. Damer has recently gone on public record that he has used a combination of mindfulness practices and psychedelics to achieve some of his key scientific and technical breakthroughs. His passion in co-founding MINDS is that many others with special capacities in these realms should have access to mentorship, scientifically validated protocols, and pathways to transform their own novel discoveries into solutions to bring about a brilliant future for Humanity. Together with his role at MINDS, he serves as Chief Scientist at the BIOTA Institute and Research Associate at the UC Santa Cruz Department of Biomolecular Engineering. He is an author of a number of seminal academic articles and a frequent speaker on topics in science, space, and the philosophical and spiritual implications of the discovery of our deepest origins.

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Matthew David Segall

Matthew David Segall is Associate Professor in the Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness department at California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, CA. He is a teacher, transdisciplinary researcher and philosopher working at the intersection of the natural and social sciences, with a special focus on the study of human consciousness. He publishes on a wide-array of topics, including his most recent book *Crossing the Threshold: Etheric Imagination in the Post-Kantian Process Philosophy of Schelling and Whitehead* (Integral Imprint, 2023). He also blogs regularly at footnotes2plato.com.

 [FOOTNOTES2PLATO.COM](https://footnotes2plato.com)
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Candice Carpenter Olson

Candice Carpenter Olson is the producer of an Emmy-winning documentary series; of companies designed to deliver deeper social connectedness and new kinds of education; and of over 100 public programs in Aspen, Colorado, on a broad range of topics including a 17-part series on psychedelics. A published author (Chapters) who has spoken at major convenings such as TED and Davos, she co-designed a program with HBS and the Harvard School of Divinity on the concept of “Enoughness,” and is currently a doctoral student at the California Institute of Integral Studies in Philosophy, Cosmology and Consciousness; serves as an Advisor to Center for MINDS, dedicated to advancing tools that catalyze breakthroughs in science; and is a Member of The 100 Year Committee for Family and Social Flourishing.



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Mind, Brain and the Unfinished Journey of the Western Mind

with Iain McGilchrist and Richard Tarnas

Richard Tarnas, author of the acclaimed and highly entertaining work on Western intellectual and cultural history, reveals the profound richness of our heritage even as our civilization seems to be falling off-course. Tarnas draws from both traditional and contemporary sources that can help us rediscover a sense of wonder and belonging in a fragmented world. Psychiatrist and philosopher Iain McGilchrist extends Tarnas' narrative by exploring the hemispheres of our brain and how they evolved to afford us different ways of being in the world. McGilchrist demonstrates how these complementary ways of engaging with reality, when properly balanced, foster both our sense of wholeness and our remarkable problem-solving abilities.

Following initial remarks, Andrew Davis will moderate a discussion between the panelists and facilitate audience Q&A.

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Iain McGilchrist

Iain McGilchrist is a psychiatrist, neuroscience researcher, philosopher and literary scholar. He is a Quondam Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and former Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director at the Bethlem Royal & Maudsley Hospital, London. He is best-known as the author of *The Master and his Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World* (Yale 2009), and *The Matter with Things: Our Brains, Our Delusions and the Unmaking of the World* (Perspectiva, 2021).

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Richard Tarnas

Richard Tarnas is Professor Emeritus at the California Institute of Integral Studies, where he was founding director of the graduate department in Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness. During his thirty years there he taught courses in the history of ideas, depth psychology, archetypal cosmology, cultural history, and the evolution of consciousness. He has also frequently lectured on archetypal studies and depth psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute, and was formerly the director of programs and education at Esalen Institute. He is the author of *The Passion of the Western Mind*, a narrative history of the Western world view from the ancient Greek to the postmodern that is widely used in universities. His second book, *Cosmos and Psyche*, received the Book of the Year Prize from the Scientific and Medical Network. He is a past president of the International Transpersonal Association and was a long-time member of the Board of Governors for the C. G. Jung Institute of San Francisco.



Andrew Davis

Andrew Davis is an American process philosopher, theologian, and scholar of the cosmos. He is research and academic director for the Center for Process Studies where he researches, writes, teaches, and organizes conferences on various aspects of process-relational thought; an advocate of metaphysics and meaning in a hospitable universe, he approaches philosophy as the endeavor to systematically think through what reality must be like because we are a part of it. He is author, editor, and co-editor of nearly a dozen books including *Mind, Value, and Cosmos: On the Relational Nature of Ultimacy*; *Process Cosmology: New Integrations in Science and Philosophy*; *Metaphysics of Exo-Life: Toward a Constructive Whiteheadian Cosmotheology*; and *Whitehead's Universe: A Prismatic Introduction* (forthcoming). Follow his work at andrewmdavis.info.

 ADAVIS@CTR4PROCESS.COM

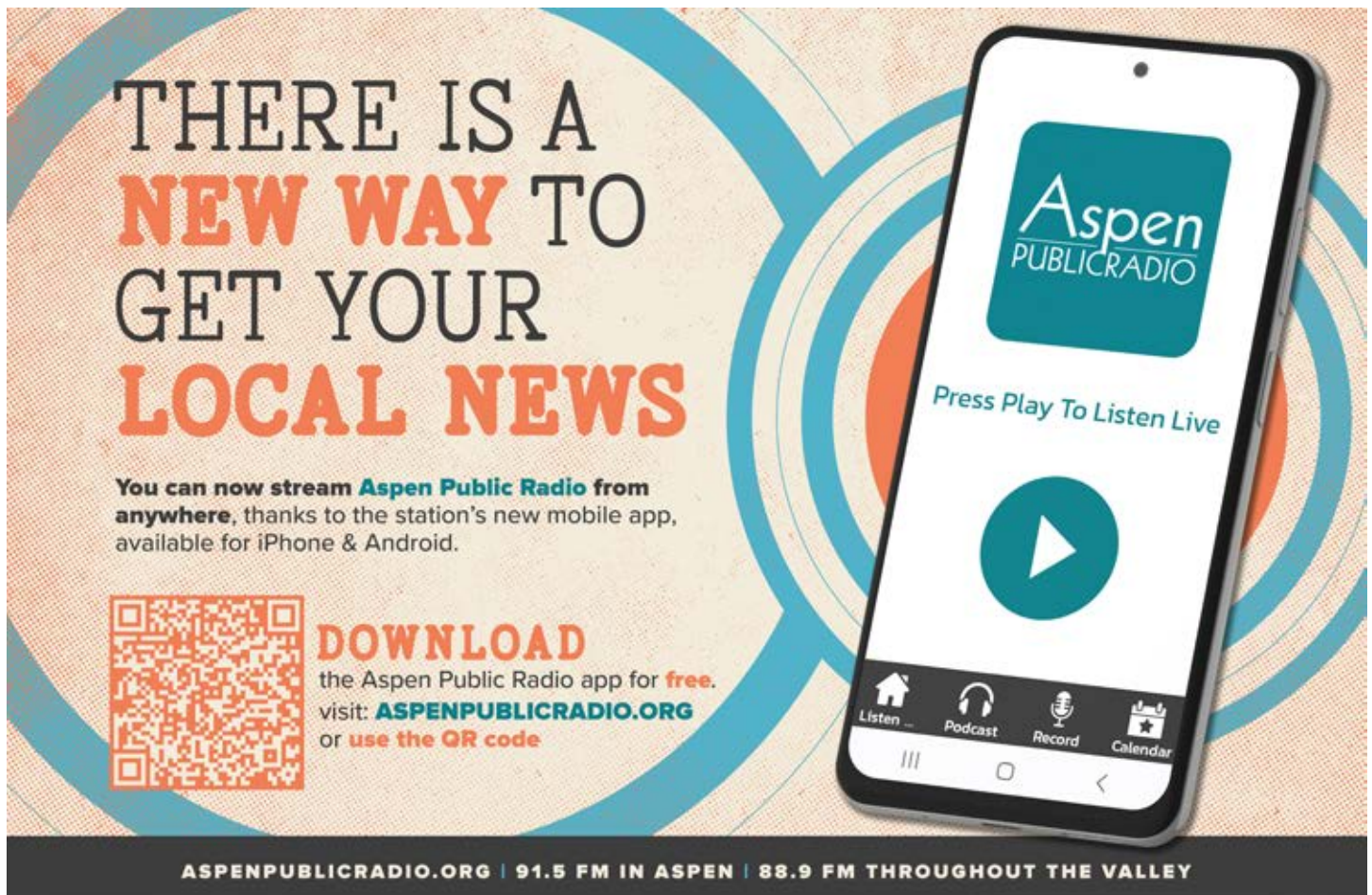
The More-Than-Human World

with David Abram

Described as “daring” and “truly original” by the journal *Science*, as “revolutionary” by the *Los Angeles Times*, David Abram was the first contemporary philosopher to advocate for a reappraisal of indigenous “animism” as a complexly nuanced and uniquely viable worldview— alongside a broadening understanding of consciousness— catalyzing a complex reassessment now underway in many disciplines. In this talk, David will elaborate on his phrase “the more-than-human world” to speak of nature as a realm that thoroughly includes humankind, yet one that necessarily exceeds humankind; the phrase has now been taken up worldwide within the broad movement for ecological sanity.

Following initial remarks, Candice Olson will facilitate audience Q&A.

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The advertisement features a smartphone displaying the Aspen Public Radio app interface. The app screen shows the station's logo, the text "Press Play To Listen Live", and a large play button. The bottom of the screen has a navigation bar with icons for "Listen", "Podcast", "Record", and "Calendar". The background of the ad has a textured, circular pattern in shades of blue and orange.



David Abram

David Abram –cultural ecologist and geophilosopher– is the author of *The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-Than-Human World*, and *Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology*. Described as “daring” and “truly original” by the journal *Science*, as “revolutionary” by the *Los Angeles Times*, David’s work engages the ecological depths of experience, exploring the ways in which sensory perception, language, and imagination inform the relation between the human animal and the animate earth. David was the first contemporary philosopher to advocate for a reappraisal of indigenous “animism” as a complexly nuanced and uniquely viable worldview — catalyzing a complex reassessment now underway in many disciplines. In his first book, David coined the phrase “the more-than-human world” in order to speak of nature as a realm that thoroughly includes humankind, yet also necessarily exceeds humankind; the phrase has now been taken up worldwide within the broad movement for ecological sanity. Dr. Abram has received numerous awards, including fellowships from the Rockefeller and Watson foundations, and the international Lannan Literary Award for Nonfiction. Co-founder and Director of the Alliance for Wild Ethics (AWE), David has held the international Arne Naess Chair in Global Justice and Ecology at the University of Oslo, and was recently the Senior Visiting Scholar in Ecology and Natural Philosophy at Harvard University. He makes his home in the foothills of the southern Rockies.

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Candice Carpenter Olson

Candice Carpenter Olson is the producer of an Emmy-winning documentary series; of companies designed to deliver deeper social connectedness and new kinds of education; and of over 100 public programs in Aspen, Colorado, on a broad range of topics including a 17-part series on psychedelics. A published author (*Chapters*) who has spoken at major convenings such as TED and Davos, she co-designed a program with HBS and the Harvard School of Divinity on the concept of “Enoughness,” and is currently a doctoral student at the California Institute of Integral Studies in Philosophy, Cosmology and Consciousness; serves as an Advisor to Center for Minds, dedicated to advancing tools that catalyze breakthroughs in science; and is a Member of The 100 Year Committee for Family and Social Flourishing.

Consciousness and the New Worldview

with Jeff Kripal and Jacob Sherman

Pioneering scholars Jeff Kripal and Jake Sherman invite us into a profound exploration of consciousness that challenges brain-bound theories. As the field of consciousness studies experiences unprecedented expansion—with over 100 theories now in academic circulation—these visionaries examine how our conception of consciousness is undergoing radical transformation. More theorists are taking seriously the possibility that consciousness is a pervasive feature of existence—not confined to human minds, but extending throughout the non-human world. The speakers articulate how this emerging paradigm suggests consciousness is participatory in nature, weaving humans into an intimate relationship with our earthly companions and the broader cosmic community.

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Following initial remarks, Sam Kimbriel will moderate a discussion between the panelists and facilitate audience Q&A.



MUSIC
Julia Keefe
Indigenous Jazz Ensemble
Sun, October 11 | 7:30 PM



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Humans 2.0 by Circa
Wed, October 22 | 6:30 PM



COMEDY
Legends of Native American Comedy
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DANCE
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COMEDY
Garrison Keillor Tonight
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Jeff Kripal

Jeff Kripal holds the J. Newton Rayzor Chair in Philosophy and Religious Thought at Rice University, where he served as the Associate Dean of the School of Humanities (2019-2023), chaired the Department of Religion for eight years, and also helped create the GEM Program, a doctoral concentration in the study of Gnosticism, Esotericism, and Mysticism that is the largest program of its kind in the world. He presently helps direct the Center for Theory and Research at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, where he served as Chair of Board from 2015 to 2020. Jeff is the author or co-author of thirteen books, nine of which are with The University of Chicago Press. He has also served as the Editor in Chief of the Macmillan Handbook Series on Religion (ten volumes, 2015-2016). He specializes in the study of extreme religious states and the re-visioning of a New Comparativism, particularly as both involve putting “the impossible” back on the academic table again. He is presently working on a three-volume study of paranormal currents in the history of religions and the sciences for The University of Chicago Press, collectively entitled *The Super Story*.

 JEFFREYKRIPAL.COM

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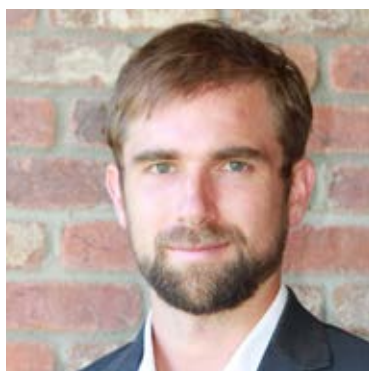
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Jacob Sherman

Jacob Sherman is a Professor of Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness and chair of the department at CIIS. He taught previously at King's College London and the University of Cambridge. By training a philosopher, theologian, and religious studies scholar, he is the author of *Partakers of the Divine: Contemplation and the Practice of Philosophy*, and editor, with Jorge Ferrer, of *The Participatory Turn: Spirituality, Mysticism, Religious Studies*. His writings have appeared in publications such as the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Modern Theology*, and *Theology and Science*. He writes and lectures frequently on topics related to contemplative traditions, metaphysics, disenchantment and re-enchantment, philosophy and poetics, and nonreductive approaches to understanding our relation to nature. He is currently writing on a new manuscript entitled *The Book of Nature: From Contemplative Antiquity to Integral Ecology*.

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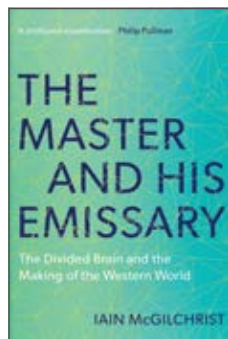
Sam Kimbriel

Sam Kimbriel - political philosopher, author, and founding director of the Aspen Institute's Philosophy & Society Initiative, which seeks to reignite a national tradition of public philosophy, enabling us to grapple with our largest and most haunting issues of societal purpose—*What is justice? What is a good life? What is society for?*—as part of an emerging generation of philosophers rethinking basic questions of individuality, identity, and community. Author of *Friendship as Sacred Knowing: Overcoming Isolation* and Editor at Large for *Wisdom of Crowds*, he writes widely on topics of solidarity, ideology, democracy, power, and trust for outlets including the *Washington Post* and *BBC*. He lives in Washington, D.C. and holds MPhil and PhD degrees from the University of Cambridge.



How to Think Impossibly

Jeff Kripal



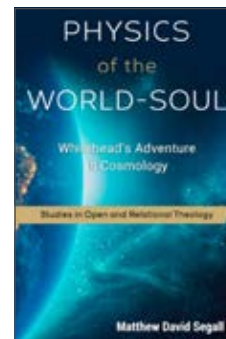
The Master and his Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World

Iain McGilchrist



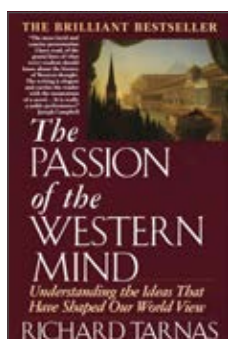
The Matter with Things: Our Brains, Our Delusions and the Unmaking of the World (Vol 1-2)

Iain McGilchrist



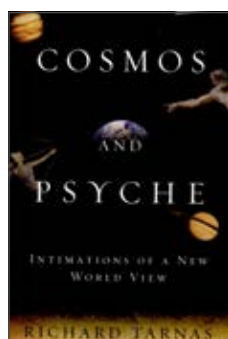
Physics of the World-Soul: Alfred North Whitehead's Adventure in Cosmology

Matthew David Segal



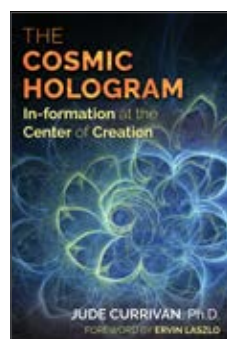
The Passion of the Western Mind (Ballantine)

Richard Tarnas



Cosmos and Psyche (Penguin Plume)

Richard Tarnas



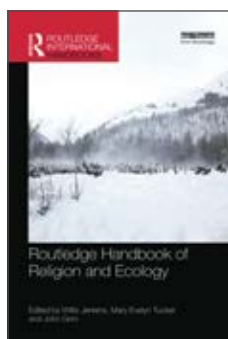
The Cosmic Hologram

Jude Currivan



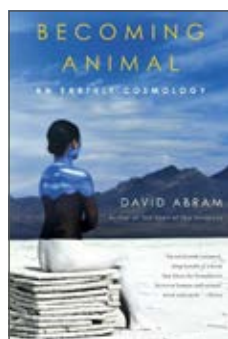
Journey of the Universe

Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker



Ecology and Religion

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim



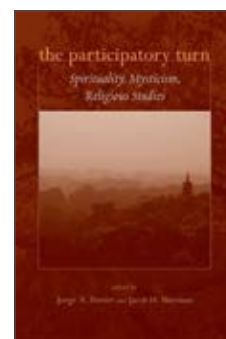
Becoming Animal

David Abram



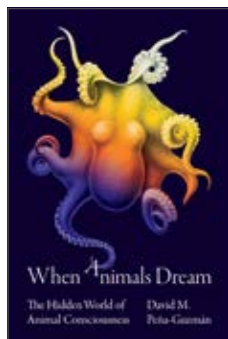
The Spell of the Sensuous

David Abram

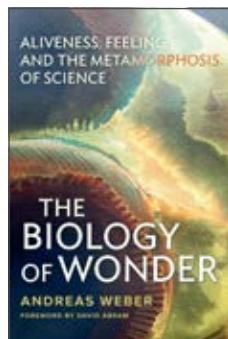


The Participatory Turn: Spirituality, Mysticism and Religious Studies

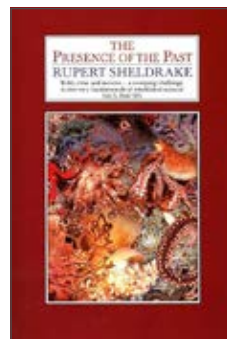
Jake Sherman



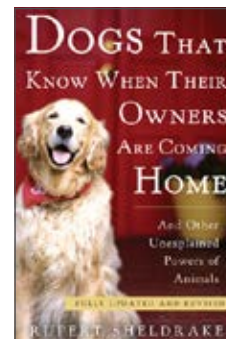
When Animals Dream
David Pena-Guzman



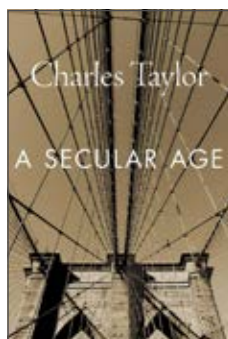
The Biology of Wonder
Andreas Weber



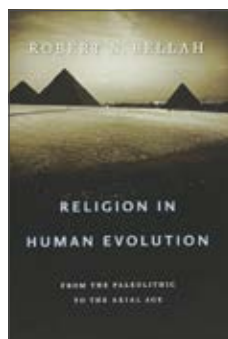
**The Presence of the Past:
The Memory of Nature**
Rupert Sheldrake



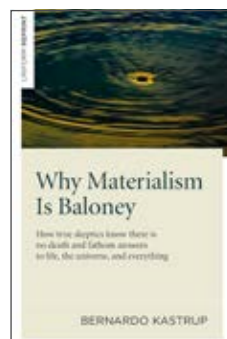
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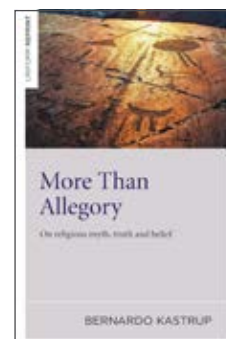
A Secular Age
(Harvard U. Press)
Charles Taylor



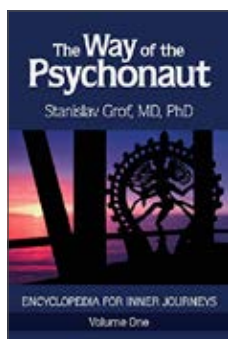
Religion in Human Evolution
(Harvard U. Press)
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Why Materialism is Baloney
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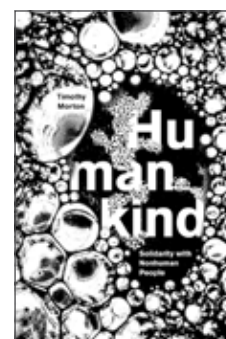
The Way of the Psychonaut,
Volumes 1 and 2
Stanislov Grof



The Sacred Universe
Thomas Berry



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