

# *Seizing an Alternative:* **Toward an Ecological Civilization** June 4–7, 2015

An international conference bringing together some 1,000 presenters across more than 80 fields of specialty for the most ambitious trans-disciplinary event held on behalf of the planet.

Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Uniting the Tenth International Whitehead Conference and Ninth International Conference on Ecological Civilization.

Plenary speakers:

**Bill McKibben**, Founder, 350.org  
**Vandana Shiva**, TIME's "Hero" of the environment  
**Sheri Liao**, China's leading environmental activist  
**John B. Cobb, Jr.**, Intellectual architect of conference events  
**Herman Daly**, Father of ecological economics  
**Wes Jackson**, Pioneer in perennial agriculture  
**David Griffin**, Founder of constructive postmodern thought



*"To see the world with ecological relations at its core  
means never to see it in the same way again."*  
**John B. Cobb, Jr.**

## **Conference Sections**

Twelve sections address central themes of ecological civilization:

### **Section I**

The Threatening Catastrophe: Responding Now

### **Section II**

An Alternative Vision: Whitehead's Philosophy

### **Section III**

Alienation from Nature: How It Arose

### **Section IV**

Reenvisioning Nature; Reenvisioning Science

### **Section V**

Ecological Civilization

### **Section VI**

Reimagining and Reinventing the  
Wisdom Traditions—World Loyalty

### **Section VII**

Reimagining and Reinventing the Wisdom  
Traditions—Spirituality

### **Section VIII**

Reimagining and Reinventing Education

### **Section IX**

Reimagining and Reinventing Bodily-Spiritual  
Health

### **Section X**

Reimagining and Reinventing Societies and  
Social Thought

### **Section XI**

Reimagining and Reinventing Culture

### **Section XII**

The Transformative Power of Art

### **Introductory Courses**

Introduction to Alfred North Whitehead's  
Thought (Aaron Gare and Robert Mesle)

Introduction to Christian Process Theology  
(Gary Dorrien)

**Registration: [Whitehead2015.com](http://Whitehead2015.com)**  
**Information: [PandoPopulus.com/conference](http://PandoPopulus.com/conference)**



Organized by the Center for Process  
Studies in cooperation with the  
Institute for Postmodern Development  
of China and the International Process  
Network.

Artwork copyright © Tucker Nichols 2014

**PANDO  
POPULUS**

Where big ideas come down to Earth.

A Pando Populus  
inaugural event.

# Seizing an Alternative: Toward an Ecological Civilization

## June 4–7, 2015

Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Organized by the Center for Process Studies. Uniting the 10th International Whitehead Conference and 9th International Conference on Ecological Civilization.

A Pando Populus inaugural event.

*Seizing an Alternative* will largely be devoted to small-group meetings, according to the following organizational structure. Twelve Sections are composed of some eighty Tracks, or working groups, which will meet concurrently.

**Section I. The Threatening Catastrophe: Responding Now** (John Quiring, chair)

Section Plenary: “The Fallacy of Misplaced–Reality?” (Catherine Keller)

1. Catastrophic Climate Change and Global Governance (David Griffin and Richard Falk)
2. The Technological Response: Geo-Engineering (Kevin O’Brien and Forrest Cingerman)
3. The Threat of Massive Hunger (Evaggelos Vallianatos.
4. Just Peacemaking: Response to Threats of Catastrophe (Jay McDaniel and Paul Bube)
5. A New Economic System (David Lewit)
6. Political Collapse: The Alternative (John Culp)
7. Organizing for Change and Sustaining Involvement (Roger Gottlieb)

**Section II. An Alternative Vision: Whitehead’s Philosophy** (Roland Faber, chair)

Section Plenary: “Philosophy Is Not Only for Philosophers” (Helmut Maassen)

1. Whitehead and Analytic Philosophy (Dan Dombrowski)
2. Whitehead and Continental Philosophy (A) (Helmut Maassen)
3. Whitehead and Continental Philosophy (B) (J. R. Hustwit)
4. Whitehead’s Value Theory and Ethics (Theodore Walker)
5. Whiteheadian Philosophy of Religion (John Quiring and Jea Sophia Oh)

**Section III. Alienation from Nature: How It Arose** (Gene Wallace, chair)

Section Plenary: “Have You Ever Wondered What It’s Like to Be a Mouse?” (Nancy Howell)

1. What Is Civilization and What Are Its Consequences for Human Relations to the Rest of the Natural World? (Rosemary Radford Ruether)
2. (Bilingual) How Have the Enlightenment and Industrialization Reshaped the Relation to the Natural World? (Zhihe Wang)
3. Late-Modernity and Its Reductive Monism (Matthew Segall)
4. What Effects Has Civilization, Especially in Its Current Form, Had on the Human Psyche? (David Roy)

**Section IV. Reenvisioning Nature; Reenvisioning Science** (Philip Clayton and Beth McDuffie, co-chairs)

Section Plenary: “Mind vs. Matter” (Philip Clayton)

1. A World of Agents and Values: Telling the Story (Zach Simpson)
2. Intuition in Mathematics and Physics (Ronny Desmet)
3. (Bi-lingual) Systems Theory, Complexity Theory, and Radical Emergence (Dongping Fan and Stuart Kauffman)
4. Beyond Mechanism: The Emergence and Evolution of Living Agents (Adam Scarfe)
5. Ecologies, Becoming, Networks, and Value (Robert Ulanowitz and Elizabeth McDuffie)
6. Unprecedented Evolution: Human Continuities and Discontinuities with Animal Life (Spyridon Koutroufinis and Manuel Clemens)
7. Neuroscience and Consciousness: Toward an Integral Paradigm (Alex Gomez-Marin and Rod Hemsell)

**Section V. Ecological Civilization** (Angela Donnelly and Charlene Tschirhart, co-chairs)

Section Plenary: “What Can We Hope For?” (Sandra Lubarsky)

1. The Psychology of Wellbeing and its Ecological Implications (Jeanne Nakamura)
2. Sustainable Practice and the Cultural Dimensions of Ecological Health (Sandra Lubarsky)
3. Population and Women (Marilyn Hempel)
4. Seizing an Alternative: the Future of Meat without Animals (Brienne Donaldson)
5. Agroecology as Foundational for Ecological Civilization (Dean Freudenberger)
6. (Bilingual) Birth-Pangs of Ecological Civilization (Barbara Muraca and Fubin Yang)

**Section VI. Reimagining and Reinventing the Wisdom Traditions—World Loyalty** (Jim Burklo, chair)

Section Plenary: “World Loyalty” (Mary Elizabeth Moore)

1. A New Axial Moment: The Revisioning of Traditions and Interreligious Mobilization (Chris Ives, Bill Leshner, and Joseph Prabhu)
2. The Jewish Contribution to Ecological Civilization (Jonathan Singer)
3. Islam and Whitehead in Dialogue (Jihad Turk)
4. Islamic Response to the Global Ecological Crisis (Ozgur Koca)
5. Thomism and Whitehead: Partners or Opponents? (Joseph Bracken)
6. The Role of Whitehead in Indigenizing Christianity (Andre Cloots)
7. New Frontiers for Process Theology (Rebecca Parker)
8. A New WAY for a New Day (Tripp Fuller and Brian McLaren)
9. Christian Process Theology (Bruce Epperly)
10. Reading the Bible for the Sake of the World (David Lull)
11. Can Mormonism Contribute to Ecological Civilization? (James McLachlan)

**Section VII. Reimagining and Reinventing the Wisdom Traditions—Spirituality** (Ignacio Castuera, chair)

Section Plenary: “Spirituality” (Ignacio Castuera)

1. Can Whitehead’s Cosmology Contribute to Hindu and Jain Thought? (Jeffery Long)
2. Sikh Values for an Ecological Civilization (Ravneet Singh)
3. How Does Buddhist Nondual Process Thought Respond to the Global Crisis? (Lourdes Arguelles)
4. (Bilingual) Confucian Thought and Whitehead (John Berthrong and Haipeng Guo)
5. Thinking Independently in the Tradition of Classical Greece (Donald Crosby)
6. The Contributions of Indigenous Wisdom (Chris Daniels)
7. The Contributions of Africa (Toni Bond Leonard)

**Section VIII. Reimagining and Reinventing Education** (Linda Handelman, chair)

Section Plenary: “Are We Really Related?” (Franz Riffert)

1. Home and Community-Based Education (Carol Toben and Harrison Smith)
2. Schools for Children (Stephanie Varnon-Hughes)
3. Higher Education (Marcus Ford and Stephen Rowe)
4. (Bilingual) Teaching and Learning (Mary Elizabeth Moore, Hengfu Wen, and Lu Liu)
5. Learning Compassion (Adrienne & Robert Brizee)

**Section IX. Reimagining and Reinventing Bodily-Spiritual Health** (Robert Ireland, chair)

Section Plenary: “Do Ideas Matter?” (John Sweeney)

1. Bodies Count: Embodiment and the Effects of Bodily Activity (Beth Johnson)
2. Rethinking “Sexuality” (Gianluigi Gugliermetto)

3. The Quest for Wholeness: East and West (Andrew Park)
4. Extraordinary Challenges to the Modern Paradigm (John Buchanan)
5. Mystical Disciplines, Ritual, and Worship (Chris Chapple and Steve Odin)
6. Eco-Feminism (Heather Eaton)

**Section X. Reimagining and Reinventing Societies and Social Thought** (Vern Visick, chair)

Section Plenary: “An Atom Is Hard to Find” (William Connolly)

1. Social Life (Michael Halewood)
2. Process Philosophy and Eco-Politics (William Connolly and Les Muray)
3. Governance and Public Administration (Margaret Stout and Jeannine Love)
4. The Legal Profession and the Philosophy of Law (Herman Greene, Howard Vogel, and Mark Modak-Truran)
5. Ecological Economics (Joshua Farley)
6. Management (Mark Dibben and Bruce Hanson)
7. (Bilingual) Whitehead and Marx (Ouyang Kang and Philip Clayton)
8. Technology (George Strawn)

**Section XI. Reimagining and Reinventing Culture** (Andrew Schwartz, chair)

Section Plenary: “That’s Interesting, But Is It True?” (Gorgias Romero)

1. The Universe Story and Inclusive History as the Context of Meaning (Mary Evelyn Tucker and Cynthia Brown)
2. Entangled Difference: Gender, Sex, Race, Class, Etc.! (Catherine Keller and Monica Coleman)
3. Good Work: Core Challenge for an Ecological Civilization (Henry Atkins)
4. Eating: the Production and Consumption of Food (Kelley Rajala)
5. End-of-Life: From Medical Failure to Sacred Experience (Sarah Nichols)
6. Popular Culture: Social Media and Entertainment (Randall Auxier)
7. (BiLingual) The Built Environment (Matthew Witt, Brian Orser, and Zonghao Bao)
8. Documentary Films (John Forney)

**Section XII. The Transformative Power of Art** (Sheri Kling, chair)

Section Plenary “Creativity” (Marjorie Suchocki)

1. Imaginal Communities: The Power of Place in Art and Story (Lisa Mount)
2. Eco-acoustics: The Power of Contemporary Music (Alan Streyffeler and Mavis Streyffeler)
3. Tragic Beauty: Poetry, Fiction and Creative Nonfiction in an Irreplaceable World (Christina Hutchins)
4. Film and Hope: The Power of Film to Awaken the Mind (Marjorie Suchocki)
5. Liberating Human Potential through Design and Graphic Art (John Bielenberg, Tucker Nichols, and Eugene Shirley)
6. Anima Mundi: Listening to the Art and Soul of Nature (Bonnie Tarwater)
7. (Bilingual) Ecological Aesthetics: East and West (Meijun Fan, Carl Welty, and Cheng Xiangzhan)

**Introductory Courses**

1. Introduction to Alfred North Whitehead’s Thought (Aaron Gare and Robert Mesle)
2. Introduction to Christian Process Theology (Gary Dorrien)

**Registration**  
Whitehead2015.com

**Information**  
PandoPopulus.com/conference