

Ontological Design of a Spiritual Path & Manuel's Spiritual Trinity: Evolutionary Systemic Humanism

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www.evolutionleader.com

Invitation & Objectives

- To understand the evolutionary crisis facing humanity and as an opportunity to design spiritual paths that contribute toward a just, spiritual fulfilling , environmental sustainable human presence on this planet.
- To reflect on and apply ontological competencies to the design or redesign of your own spiritual path-life path.
- This is an opportunity as a community to learn from others about their spiritual paths and also to contribute to the Humanistic Community spiritual practices, narrative and rituals that can enhance our community.

An Ontology of Religion : Key elements and benefits of Religion

- Each religion provides its own creation myth, A story of creation. "The creation stories gave the members of each tribe an explanation for their existence". Edward O. Wilson
- It provides belonging.
- It provides meaning.
- It provides a unique identity.
- Community
- Rituals
- Symbols
- Vocabulary
- Meaning
- Certainty

Spirituality for the Skeptic: the thoughtful love of life.

Robert C. Solomon

- It is not necessary to be religious-much less to belong to an organized religion-to be spiritual.
- Spirituality, like philosophy, is coming to grips with the big picture and with it our need for a larger sense of our lives.
- Spirituality embraces love, emotions, trust, science, rationality, reverence, and wisdom, as well as the most terrifying aspects of life, tragedy, and death.
- Spirituality is a process, the self is a process, and spirituality is the process of transforming the self.
- Spirituality is the expansion of the self, connecting with people, nature, and the universe.
- Spirituality is ultimately social and global, a sense of ourselves identified with others and the world.
- The idea is to recombine spirituality with science and nature rather than play them off against each other.
- Spirituality thus naturalized is what I want to grapple with in this book.

The Evolutionary Crisis and the Opportunity for a Conscious Human Evolution

As we enter the 21st century we are facing a complex and systemic world crisis which threatens the future of the human race and the future of life. This world crisis has its philosophical roots going back thousands of years and its industrial roots going back several centuries. Today the world crisis shows up in the ecological crisis, our dying planet and biosphere. The human crisis in poverty, hunger, and war. The gap between rich and poor nations, the growth without limits of our institutions and nations, the search for natural resources to keep growth going. And finally a crisis of meaning and ethics. Where people are oriented by our consumer culture to having and consumerism rather than to being and development. This crisis also presents us with an opportunity for a conscious human evolution, where we can be the designers of a new way of being human, a new civilization that is loving, ethical, just, and sustainable. We have the knowledge, the resources, and the technology to design and build a better future for the human family and for all life on this planet.

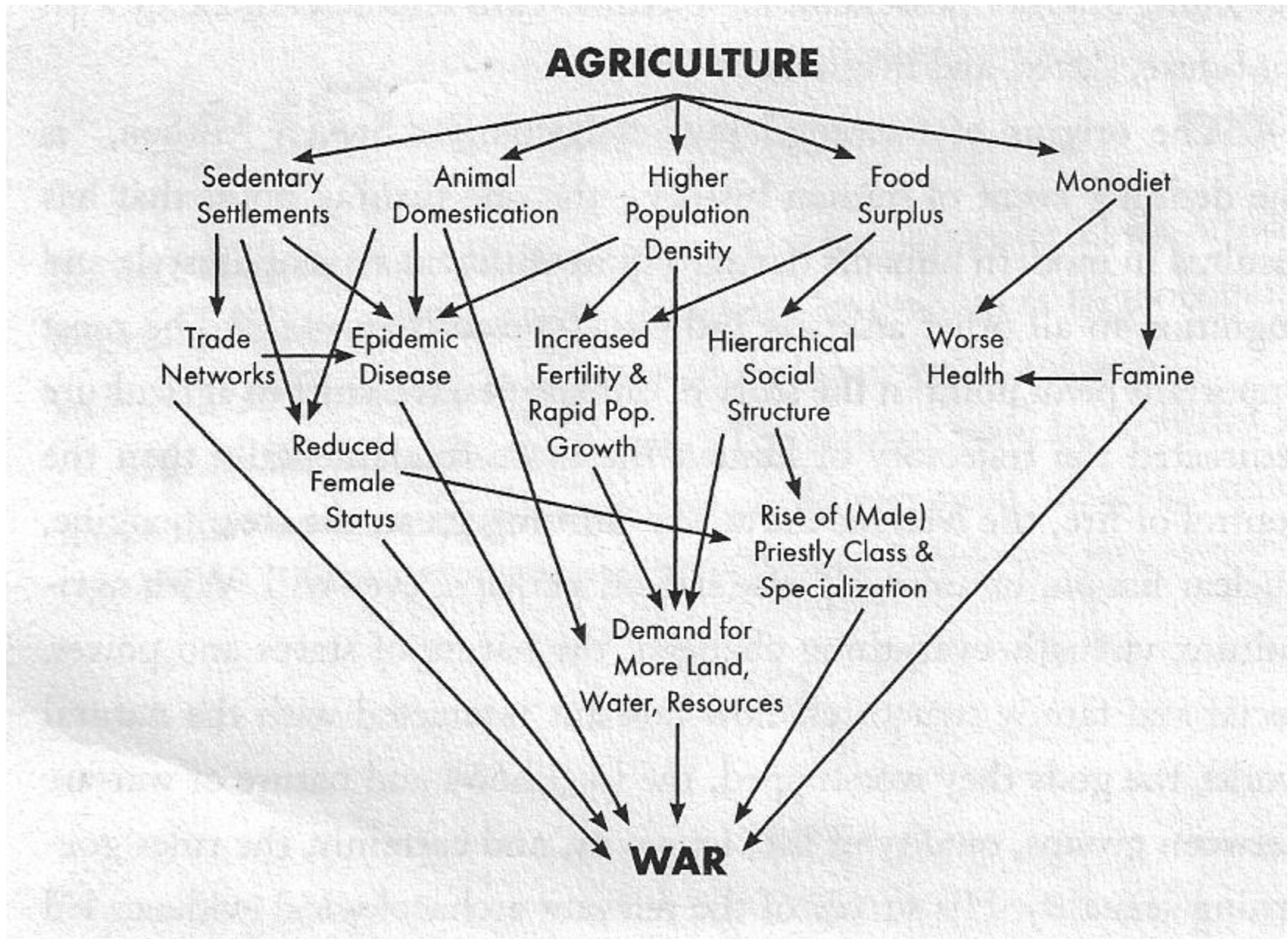
Nature doesn't care...

... if our thinking is faulty...

... if a few characters die off here
and there.....

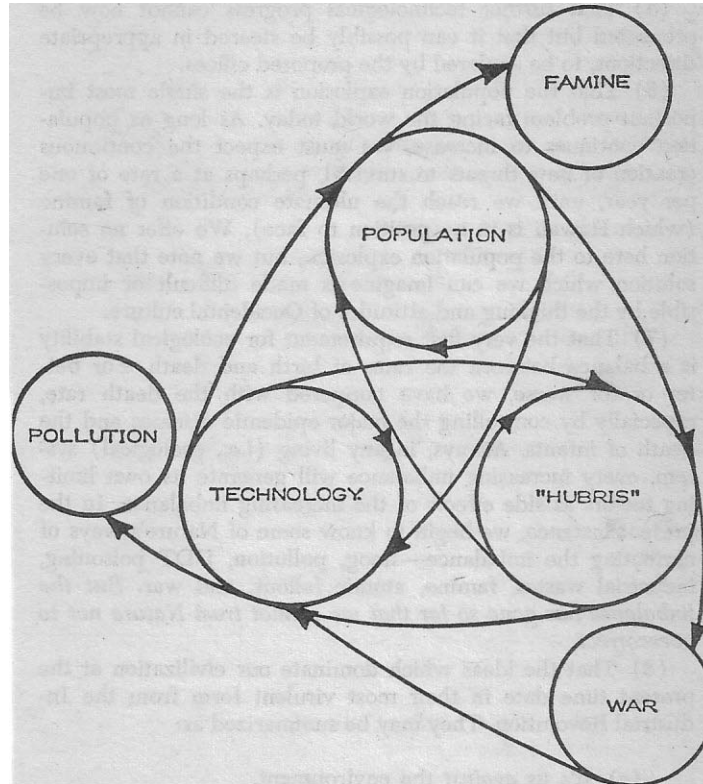
- As long as there are enough to
perpetuate the species

The Roots of Agriculture and Patriarchal Culture. Christopher Ryan and Cacilda Jetha Sex at Dawn.



Steps to an Ecology of Mind . Gregory Bateson.
1970

Figure 3. The Dynamics of Ecological Crisis



On Human Evolution

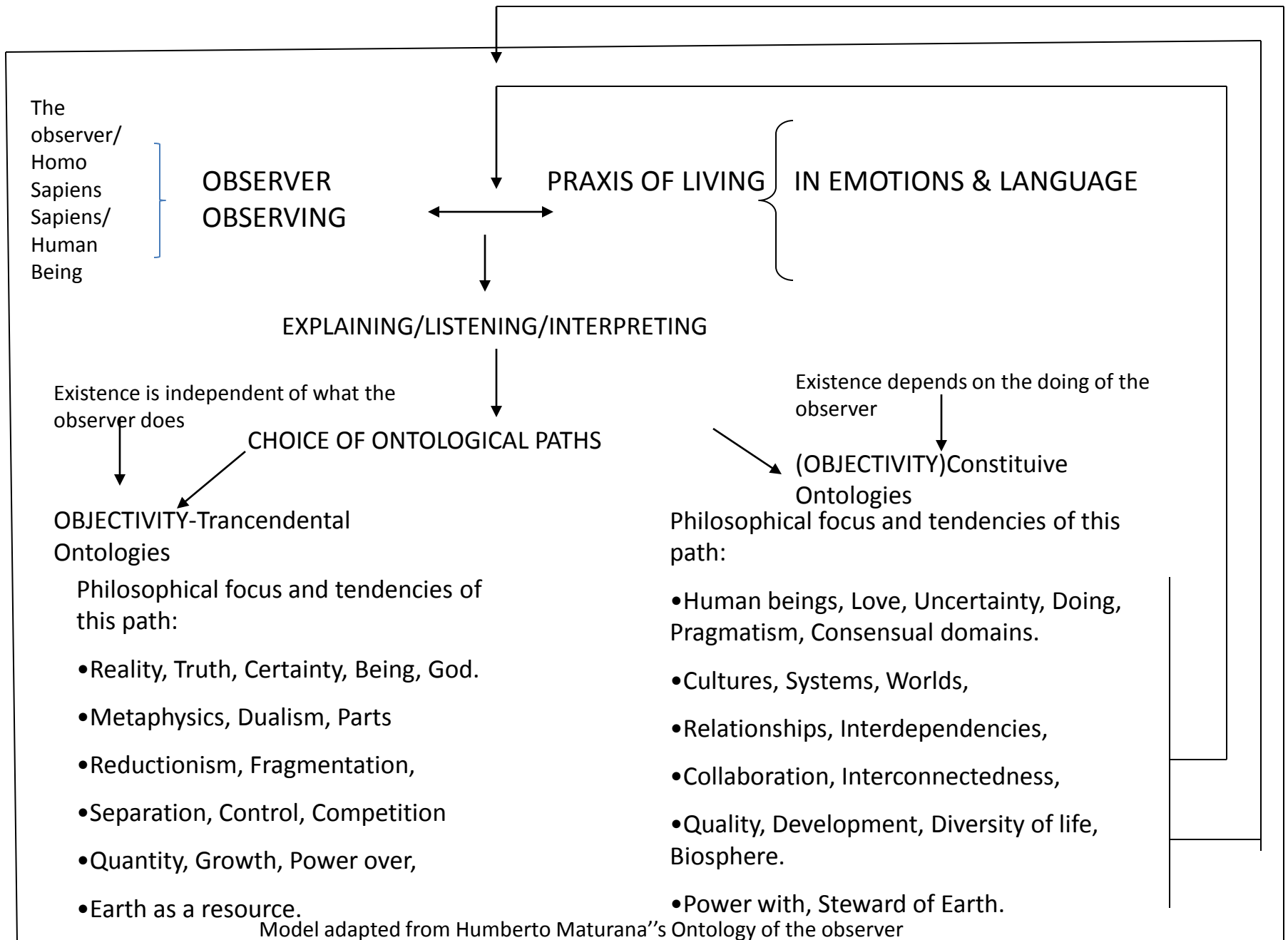
The most meaningful activity in which a human being can be engaged is one that is directly related to human evolution.

This is true because human beings now play an active and critical role not only in the process of their own evolution but in the survival and evolution of all living things.

Awareness of this places upon human beings a responsibility for their participation in and contribution to the process of evolution. If humankind would accept and acknowledge this responsibility and become creatively engaged in the process of metabiological evolution consciously, as well as unconsciously, a new reality would emerge, and a new age would be born.

Jonas Salk

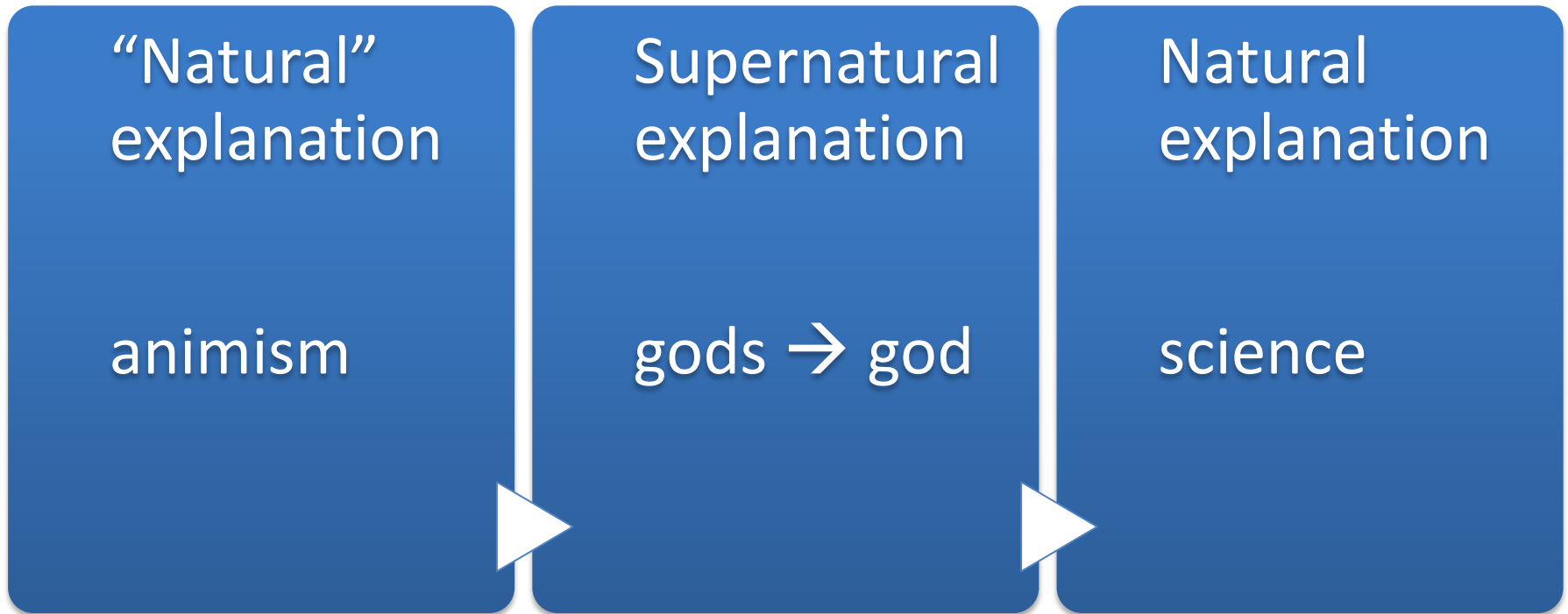
Anatomy of Reality 1985. P112



The search for meaning

- Meaning assigned in terms that are familiar: natural object/events, family/social relationships, societal structures
- As more and more is “understood” [as knowledge frames change with discovery], meaning-scripts (structures) progress: **animism** → **polytheism** → **monotheism** → **science**
- Rise of science is “natural”

Same Brain in all these Stages of Social Evolution



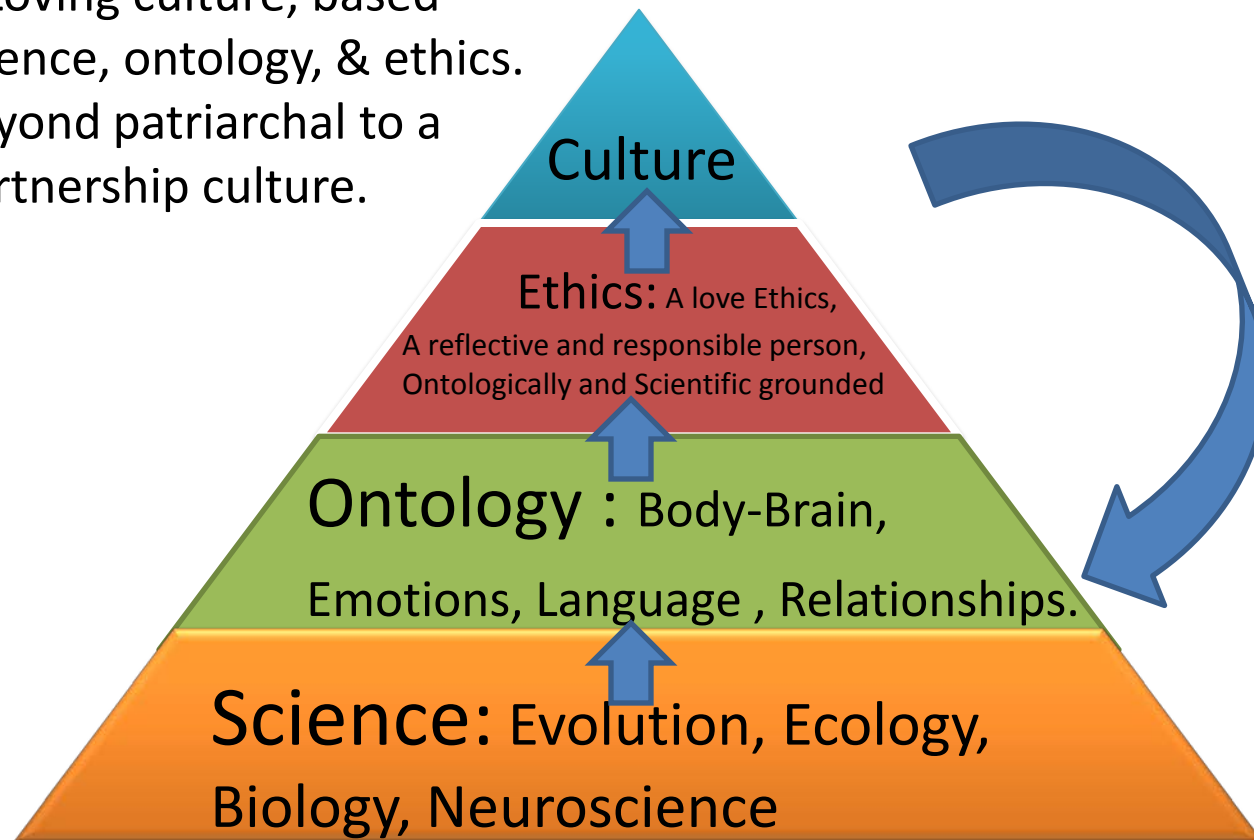
Scientific method...?

- To counter **biases in our thinking**, especially in our “**judgment under uncertainty**” and especially, the “**confirmation bias**”

(Tversky & Kahneman, 1974)

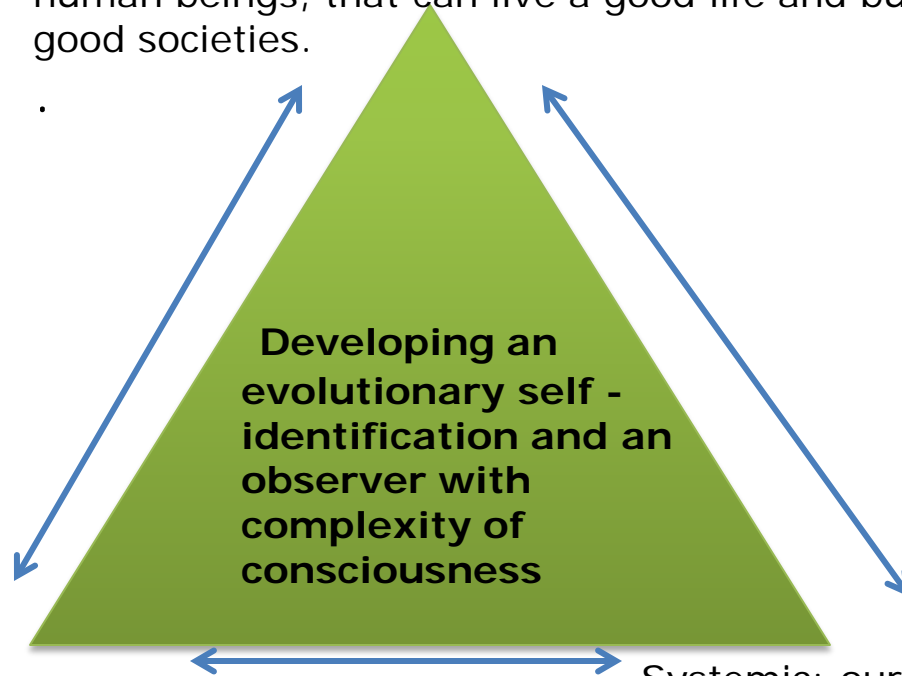
Evolutionary Systemic Humanism : Scientific, Ontological, Ethical, and Cultural dimensions.

A Loving culture, based
science, ontology, & ethics.
Beyond patriarchal to a
partnership culture.



Manuel's Spiritual Trinity: Evolutionary Systemic Humanism

Humanistic: care for people, love, kindness, ethical wisdom, solidarity. A larger sense of Self. Feeling connected to the human family and nature. A key concern: creating loving, ethical, evolutionary human beings, that can live a good life and build good societies.



Evolutionary: understanding our cosmic, biological and human evolution from a scientific-empirical perspective. Feeling connected to the universe, earth and biosphere. A key concern: caring for the future sustainability of human beings and all life. Having a story of the cosmic evolution and life.

Systemic: our natural and social systems are connected, in relationships, each system impacts the other systems. We are interconnected and interdependent. A key concern: creating just and sustainable institutions and systems.

Evolutionary story, rituals, practices and conversations





Evolutionary Systemic Humanism: a brief bibliography of thinkers that have influenced my design of spirituality.

- Jonas Salk. Survival of the Wisest & Anatomy of Reality.
- Julian Huxley. Evolutionary Humanism.
- Gregory Bateson. Mind and Nature. A Necessary Unity.
- Carl Sagan. The Demon-Haunted World. & Pale Blue Dot.
- Erich Fromm. The Art of Being & The Sane Society.
- Erich Fromm. Man for Himself. An inquiry into the psychology of ethics.
- Robert Kegan. The Evolving Self.
- Humberto Maturana Romesin and Gerda Verden-Zoller. Edited by Pille Bunnell. The Origin of Humanness in the Biology of Love.
- Christopher Ryan and Cacilda Jetha. Sex at Dawn.
- bell hooks. all about love-new visions.
- Fritjof Capra. The Hidden Connections.
- Donella H. Meadows. Thinking in Systems.
- Mark Matousek. Ethical Wisdom.
- Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. The Evolving Self.
- The Dalai Lama. Beyond Religion, Ethics for a Whole World.
- Rick Hanson. Buddha's Brain. The practical neuroscience of happiness, love & wisdom.
- Edward O. Wilson. The Biological Basis of Morality.
- Edward O. Wilson. The Social Conquest of the Earth.
- Rafael Echeverria. Etica y Coaching Ontologico.
- Robert C. Solomon. Spirituality for the Skeptic.
- Ashley Montagu. Living and Loving.