Precarious Times
Sustainability Symposium
UWS Hawkesbury

Discovering Spiritual Ecology and Integral Consciousness through Generative Learning

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Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee (2013) in

*Spiritual Ecology*

*The Cry of the Earth*

Our separation from the natural world may have given us the fruits of technology and science, but it has left us bereft of any instinctual connection to the spiritual dimension of life.
The Current Global Crisis

The philosopher Peter Russell (2000) says:

‘The global crisis now facing us is, at its root, a crisis of consciousness. …..

….. Something new is being called for. In this case the old way that is no longer working is our mode of consciousness.’

Thomas Berry (1988) in *The Dream of the Earth* argued for a new story that sums up the situation of transition from the mental to an integral consciousness so well in his famous quote: ‘The Universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects’

Jean Gebser and *The Ever Present Origins*

Jean Gebser (1985),
*The Ever-Present Origins* -

- “human consciousness underwent a series of mutations (archaic, magical, mythical, mental)

- each of which has enriched reality by a new (qualitative) dimension.
Jean Gebser Part 2

- At present humanity is again undergoing such a mutation: this time from the mental,
- perspectival structure of consciousness to the integral,
- aperspectival structure or,
- using the terminology of Sri Aurobindo, from mind to supermind.
An Image of Integral Consciousness
### Structures of Consciousness

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<th>Structure</th>
<th>Chakra</th>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Dominant Period</th>
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<td>Cosmic</td>
<td>Crown</td>
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<td>Post Integral</td>
<td>3rd Eye</td>
<td>Light</td>
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<td>Integral</td>
<td>Throat</td>
<td>Ether</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental</td>
<td>Heart</td>
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<td>1500 - 2012</td>
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<td>Mythic</td>
<td>Navel</td>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>10 000 – 1500 BP</td>
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<td>Magical</td>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>70 000 - 10 000 BP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archaic</td>
<td>Base</td>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>200 000 – 70 000 BP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BP = Before Present
Images of the Archaic Consciousness
Amazon Rainforest (Ecuador)
Muladhara (Base Chakra)
Element Earth
Dominant Period 200,000 – 70,000 BP
Images of the Magical Consciousness
Yankirri Jukurrpa (Emu Dreaming)
Svadhisthana (Sexual Chakra)
Element Water
Dominant Period 70 000 – 10 000 BP
Images of the Mythical Consciousness
Shiva Temple New Delhi
Manipura Chakra (Navel Chakra)
Element Fire
Dominant Period 10,000 – 1500 BP
Images of the Mental Consciousness
Michelangelo Adam and God
Anahata Chakra (Heart Chakra)
Element Air
Dominant Period 1500 – 2012
Images of the Integral Consciousness
Ervin Laszlo’s integral options café image
Vishuddha Chakra (Throat Chakra)
Element Ether
Dominant Period 2012+
The Collective Story of our Spiritual Ecology Course
Art Work by Participants of Spiritual Ecology Course
Integral consciousness

• .....means being aware of this moment to moment experience as it flows from the past into the present and from the present into the future – a continuous deep present – a placeless place of timeless presence in this time.

• Some ways to experience this process of integration is through the practices of Yoga, of meditation, of Tai Chi, of Chi Gung and embodied practices like dance and drama, creative processes embedded in nature...
William Irwin Thompson (2001) in *Transforming History* writes:

Unconsciously, the world is one, for global pollution spells out a dark integration that does not honour national boundaries of nation-states. Thus we see that industrial nation-states in their fullest development have contributed to their own end. Collectivization, then, must mean that the future is some sort of collective consciousness in which the completely individuated and conscious ego becomes surrounded by the permeable membrane of an ecology of Mind and not by the wall of civilization.