

Philosophy, Cosmology, & Consciousness



Summer

Newsletter

2016

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Archai, Issue 5 Launch Event: Thursday, July 7 at 7:00 pm in Namaste Hall. *Details on page 3*



Faculty Spotlight: Elizabeth Allison

Climate Fiction, otherwise known as Cli-Fi, is a style of narrative fiction centered upon the current and emerging climate crisis. PCC core faculty and ESR program chair, professor Elizabeth Allison is both a fan and a contributor to this emerging genre with her recent entry into a [climate fiction contest](#) put on by Arizona State University. Although it was recently announced that out of an astounding 743 submissions Elizabeth's entry is not among the twelve finalists (she's currently pursuing other publication avenues), prior to the announcement she was kind enough to have this conversation with PCC Program Assistant Lilly Falconer about her venture into the genre.

Lilly: *What drew you to climate fiction?*

Elizabeth Allison: As you know, I teach about the environment and environmental change and I'm very concerned. I tend to read a lot of the projections about climate change and they're pretty upsetting and alarming. I've tried to assess different ways that people who study climate change and global environmental change can maintain our equilibrium — not to shut down when they read this



information. One direction I've gone is experimenting with contemplative practices and seeing how those can support us. Another direction (that I started to go in with this project) is to lean into my worst fears. Usually I try to kind of dance with the fears but not really lean into them. So, I said what if I take these terrible trend lines and use fiction to transcend and imagine what would be happening and how humanity might be managing. I know that humanity has these innate creative capacities that have overcome many difficulties throughout history and I wondered how those would be employed. The third part is that every time I read these statistics I think about how old my daughter will be at that time, and now not only do I feel the end of the cen-

tury through her but I feel the end of the next century through her kids and her grandkids in a way that was not possible before she was born. I want to know how they're going to be faring, and so I needed to write this story to just try to play with it.

L: *It sounds very creative in terms of your participation with these statistics in an imaginative way, and it also sounds slightly therapeutic in that it's allowing you to engage rather than just holding it all and becoming depressed.*

EA: Yeah! We need creative possibilities for the future and this is something fiction can do that science can't. Before we do something we need to imagine what it is. That means not only having dystopian visions of the future. We need to have, not utopian, but more positive visions that say, *okay, we got through this; there were rough times but humanity continued to survive and develop its capacity to be more loving and just and compassionate.* We can't actually get to that place unless we imagine it, and fiction is a place where we can do that.

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Student & Community Activities

Abeer Desai: Abstract Painting & PCC



PCC M.A. student Abeer Desai has been spending a great deal of time nurturing his artistic practice this year.

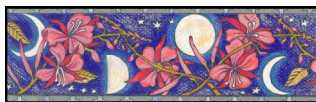
Abeer's abstract paintings are viewable on his website, www.aberdesaiart.com, and through his Instagram [@aberdesaiart](https://www.instagram.com/aberdesaiart).

Laura Michetti: *Saturn and the Evolving Godhead*



PCC Ph.D. student Laura Michetti attended the annual Sophia Centre conference at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution this June. Her presentation, [*Saturn and the Evolving Godhead*](#), was

among others featured within the conference's 2016 theme: [Worship of the Stars](#).



Newsletter Banner Art Contributed by Olena Provencher

PCC Ph.D. student Olena Provencher generously contributed her original artwork to the Spring 2016 newsletter. When asked about her first year as a member of the PCC community, Olena described it as "a strange and wonderful sacred marriage. In the past year I have felt encouraged to know myself. I am fully engaged in research on the Divine Feminine on intellectual, intuitive, and imaginative levels."

Matthew David Segall Delivers Commencement Address at Graduation



This May, PCC Ph.D. graduate Matthew David Segall was awarded the position of delivering a stirring and inspiring speech at the CIIS commencement ceremony at the Nourse Auditorium in San Francisco. Matthew shared the stage with many, perhaps most notably the two honorary degree recipients: Angela Davis and Josef Brinckmann. Both a written version and a video of the speech can be accessed via his blog, footnotes2plato.com.

Change in Leadership for the PCC Forum

This Spring, leadership of the Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness Forum was passed from Becca Tarnas and Matthew Segall to Lilly Falconer and Travis DiRuzza. The PCC Forum, which initially incarnated as the Interdisciplinary Dialogue Forum, was previously co-chaired by fellow PCC alumni Jamie Socci and Adam Robbert.

With the campus-wide diversity initiative in mind, Lilly and Travis chose to begin their time as co-chairs by outlining a list of goals and principles to highlight within their speaker and venue selection process. The four main principles include: fostering interdisciplinary dialogue; emphasizing diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility; encouraging creativity, curiosity, and openness; and establishing a cozy, convivial ambiance.

Over the course of the Spring semester Travis and Lilly hosted six Forum events at CIIS, including:

[*Drew Dellinger, "Change the Worldview, Change the World: Cosmology, Climate, Racial Justice, and the Future of the Planet."*](#)

[*Anisa Medhi, "Islam, Muslims, and Our Phobic World"*](#) (co-sponsored by the department of Anthropology and Social Change).

[*"Mars at Sunrise"*](#) film screening and Q&A with writer/director Jessica Habie, presented by the MFA department, co-

sponsored by PCC.

Michael Sukhov, "Critical Theory and the New Cosmology."

Soleil Chappelle, "Archetypal Movement Research."

PCC Unplugged: Open mic for songs, poetry, stories, dance, and sundry.

Stay tuned via the [PCC Forum website](#) for announcements regarding the Fall lineup!

ARCHETYPAL MOVEMENT RESEARCH

A Presentation By **Soleil Chappelle**

Soleil Chappelle is a dancer, astrologer, and artistic researcher based in Oakland. She is a current masters student in Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness at CIIS and has a BFA in Performance from Naropa University. Soleil co-founded Language of Fish Collective Arts in 2011, with whom she created interdisciplinary performances in Boulder, Colorado until 2014. In addition to Archetypal Movement Research, Soleil is currently working on a methodology of creative process, Sensory Woven Swells.

Archetypal Movement Research was developed by Soleil Chappelle to illuminate the planetary archetypes through the moving body. In this forum, Soleil will guide simple movement exercises that are adaptable to all types of ability. We'll explore the qualities of movement that are correlated with each planet through improvisational dance and discussion. Participants will walk away with tools to research the archetypal with a kinesthetic medium. This opens ever-new possibilities of how to dance with the planetary archetypes as they show up in our lives. No dance or astrology experience is necessary; a beginner's lens is encouraged! Come let loose with the luminaries, shake your celestial body, and waltz with those wandering stars!

Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness Forum
A transdisciplinary lecture series at the
California Institute of Integral Studies
1453 Mission St., SF, CA

Friday, 4/15/2016
6:00pm ~ Area 5
PCCForum.wordpress.com

Sam Hinds & Lilly Falconer: 2016 Integral Teaching Fellows

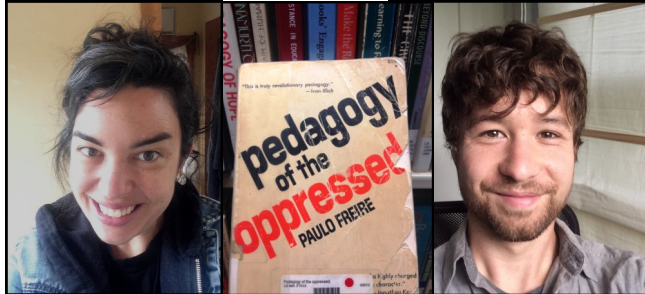
This Spring, PCC M.A. students Sam Hinds and Lilly Falconer were chosen to participate in the [Integral Teaching Fellowship](#) in conjunction with the School of Undergraduate Studies and the [Bachelor's Degree Completion Program](#) at CIIS. The Integral Teaching Fellowship is a semester-long program committed to training graduate students to teach at the college level with an emphasis on critical and liberatory pedagogies, and an exploration into the role and definition of integral education in the university classroom.

Reflecting upon his experience, Sam wrote: "PCC and the ITF have co-informed one another [for me] by revealing an intimate inter-connection between re-enchantment and social justice. Both are responses to conditions historically arising from the dominant Western world that share the same root causes. Re-enchantment and

social justice are mutually enfolded within the necessary response to the current planetary crisis.

"PCC students can greatly benefit from participating in the ITF through expanding their inquiry into the multiplicity of vantage points that all individuals bring with them into the classroom. It helps reveal to prospective educators the relevance of these various perspectives toward

enriching an understanding of our present condition, and finding appropriate responses. The ITF also demonstrates the importance of participatory pedagogical methods. These methods generate conditions through which the classroom itself can exemplify new ways of being that are deeply consonant with PCC's aims. The classroom is an event of our multi-centric cosmos entering communion through each individual. It is often communion across salient differences that brings to light important patterns requiring our attention and response."



Pictured (center): [Pedagogy of the Oppressed](#) by Paulo Freire; a central text employed by the BAC program.

In April, Sam and Lilly were invited to speak at the 2016 CIIS Founders Day Symposium on a panel of four Integral Teaching Fellows titled *Transformative Integral Education: Diversity and Inclusion in the Classroom*.

2016 PCC M.A. Graduate Emerson Gale Going to China



Recent PCC M.A. graduate Emerson Gale is heading to China this summer as part of the CIIS China Initiative.

"The China Initiative represents both the need for CIIS to meet the global collaboration calls of our age and the hunger of Chinese citizens for the process-oriented modalities taught through CIIS. As my background is in international education

and my second language is Mandarin Chinese, I have been encouraged by the China Initiative to join [Stage Ai](#), the transformational arts organization founded by Chinese alumni of CIIS. Through Stage Ai, I shall utilize my PCC focus of musical empowerment and wilderness reconnection to serve as the Arts Director for a two-month youth camp in rural China this summer."
— Emerson

Becca Tarnas and Grant Maxwell Co-Edit Issue 5 of *Archai: The Journal of Archetypal Cosmology*



Archai: The Journal of Archetypal Cosmology will be celebrating the release of its fifth issue, titled *Saturn and the Theoretical Foundations of an Emerging Discipline*, co-edited by PCC alumnae Becca Tarnas and Grant Maxwell, with a launch party on Thursday, July 7 at 7:00 pm in Namaste Hall. The launch event will feature a panel of speakers — authors and editors — in dialogue with each other and the audience. Contributing authors include James Hillman (whose essay "On Senex Consciousness" is being reprinted),

Jessica Garfield-Kabbara, Matthew David Segall, Delia Shargel, Becca Tarnas, Richard Tarnas, Drew Dellinger, Travis DiRuzza, Maximilian DeArmon. And Grant Maxwell.

For further details on current and past issues of *Archai* please visit their website: www.archai.org.

Alumni Activities

PCC at the 2016 Symbiosis Gathering



Lydia Violet will facilitate a workshop on “[Music As Medicine In Our Time: An Exploration of Music and Joanna Macy’s Work That Reconnects.](#)”

Matt’s talk, “[Ecodeclic Philosophy and the Future of the Planet.](#)” will explore the resurgence of psychedelic research and practice and the role psychedelics can play as our species moves through the current evolutionary bottleneck and

transitions into a more ecological way of life.

Becca’s talk, “[Towards an Imaginal Ecology.](#)” will focus on the role that imagination plays in the practice of ecology, and how it allows one to perceive the relationships connecting all things.

Also appearing at the 2016 Symbiosis Gathering will be Vandana Shiva, David Abram, Penny Livingston-Stark, Lydia Nielson, Leah Song, Jasmine Fuego, and many others.

Lydia Harutoonian: Music as Medicine



Lydia Harutoonian (a.k.a. Lydia Violet) has co-created a workshop series called *Music as Medicine in Our Planet-Time* in collaboration with world-renowned permaculturist Penny Livingston of the [Regenerative Design Institute](#) in Bolinas, CA. The workshops also feature a growing list of musicians — notably, Rising Appalachia, Ayla Nereo, and MaMuse.

Music as Medicine in Our Planet-Time combines Lydia’s offering of Joanna Macy’s *Work that Reconnects*, Penny Livingston’s skill with deep nature connection, and group singing practices facilitated by Lydia along with the guest musicians.

Lydia facilitates Joanna’s teachings with the central goal of helping participants cultivate a greater sense of both personal and community resilience, knowing that to befriend our pain for the world is also befriending our love for and solidarity with each other. Each workshop coincides with a concert featuring the selected musical collaborators.

Lydia is currently producing her first album which features her own compositions inspired by roots music, protest song traditions, and her experiences being present with both the immense beauty and tender tragedies of our time. She is currently planning a multi-state fall tour with Ayla Nereo, as well a tour with the *Music As Medicine* workshop. For details and inquiries you can contact her at www.lydiafiddle.com.

Joshua Halpern: EcoCourageous Eco Tours



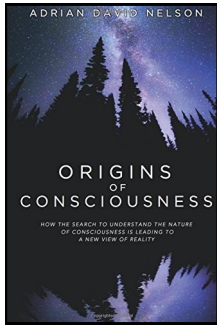
Joshua Halpern is continuing his work of engaging East Bay neighbors with their transforming ecologies, offering tours of the Mokelumne River, the watershed that provides drinking water for Oakland and Berkeley. For more information, or to schedule your own tour, visit: ecocourageous.com/watershedwitness

Changing of the Gods



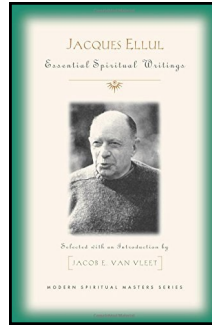
PCC alumni have been coming together to assist in the creation of the forthcoming film [Changing of the Gods](#), centered on the work of our own professor Richard Tarnas, in collaboration with Kenny Ausubel of [Bioneers](#) and John Cleese of Monty Python fame. Max DeArmon is the film’s associate producer; Theo Badashi created the visual art for the website and Kickstarter campaign; Jamie Socci served as the film’s communications manager through the highly successful Kickstarter campaign; Lilly Falconer and Chad Harris graciously helped with promotions at Bioneers and Burning Man; Erica Jones and Nina Zabelin contributed to archival research; and Jessica Garfield-Kabbara, Drew Dellinger, and Becca Tarnas have all served as unofficial advisors in varying capacities.

Recent Student & Alumni Publications



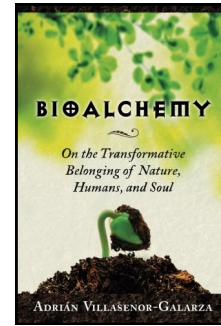
Origins of Consciousness: How the Search to Understand the Nature of Consciousness Is Leading to a New View of Reality [Adrian David Nelson](#)

This book explores ideas and evidence now changing the way scientists and philosophers approach the place of consciousness in the universe. From the frontiers of modern physics and cosmology to controversial experiments exploring telepathy and mind-matter interaction, the emerging view promises to change how we understand our place in the universe, our relationship to other life, and the nature of reality itself.



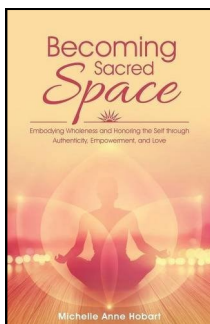
Jacques Ellul: Essential Spiritual Writings [Jacob E. Van Vleet](#)

For nearly every sociological book he wrote, Jacques Ellul would write a theological or spiritual counterpart. And yet this other half of his work has received relatively little attention. This volume corrects the balance, highlighting spiritual gems on prayer, hope, and universal salvation. His call to reject the worship of the state and to embrace nonviolent activism has an abiding relevance and urgency.



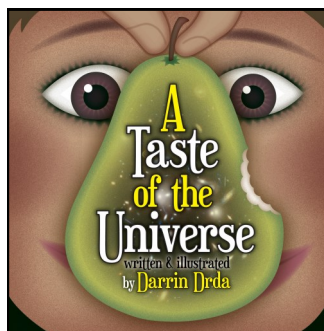
Bioalchemy: On the Transformative Belonging of Nature, Humans, and Soul [Adrian Villasenor-Galarza](#)

Bioalchemy is a personal yet universal exploration informed by the ecological challenges and evolutionary opportunities of our time. Using the alchemical tradition as main inspiration, the book explores the transformative potential of our planetary time by means of cultivating three interrelated dimensions: Self-discovery, reconnection to nature, and sustainable action. These dimensions aid in recognizing the inherent potentials of reconnecting with a life filled with the nourishing presence of soul.



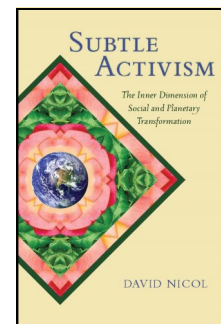
Becoming Sacred Space: Embodying Wholeness and Honoring the Self through Authenticity, Empowerment, and Love [Michelle Anne Hobart](#)

Becoming Sacred Space is a primer to help us realign to our inner truth, reconnect to our deep resources, and bring forth the sustainable and vibrant Selves that our beloved planet needs us to be in this time of transformation. By attuning to the archetypes and integrating their wisdom, we as a species can come back into balance with the greater ecological system.



A Taste of the Universe [Darrin Drda](#)

A Taste of the Universe explores the idea that delving into one object in the world reveals how it is connected to the cosmos in its entirety. This is Darrin's second children's book, the first being [Welcome to Earth!](#) which was published in 2015.



Subtle Activism: The Inner Dimension of Social and Planetary Transformation [David Nicol](#)

Can awakened consciousness contribute to social change and, if so, how? David Nicol introduces the concept of "subtle activism" to describe the use of consciousness-based practices like meditation and prayer to support collective transformation, such as global meditation toward peaceful resolution of an international conflict.

2016 PCC Dissertations

- * **Lisa da Silva** – *Earth Matters: The Ecological Activism of Body Love*
- * **Matthew E. Davis** – *Love and Ecology (Moving Beyond Language and Pedagogy)*
- * **Shelli Renée Joye** – *The Holoflux Theory of Consciousness: An Integral Interpretation of the Theories of Karl Pribram, David Bohm, and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*
- * **Gary F. Moring** – *The Intimate Universe: A Phenomenological Investigation into Gebser's Structures of Consciousness Understood Within the Context of the Seth Material*
- * **Toni Marie Nash** – *Cosmological Commitment in a Time of Planetary Crisis: Values for a Vibrant Earth*
- * **Matthew David Segall** – *Cosmotheanthropic Imagination in the Post-Kantian Process Philosophy of Schelling and Whitehead*
- * **John Nickolas Tillyer, Jr.** – *Intellectual Intuition*

(Faculty Spotlight continued from page 1)

L: *Can you tell me a bit more about your current project?*

EA: Yes, I wrote a short story which was around 10,000 words for a climate fiction contest. They're not announcing the winners until August. It's fiction but it's an effort to make sense of what my daughter's life (and the generations after her) might be like.

L: *Does it take place in the Bay Area?*

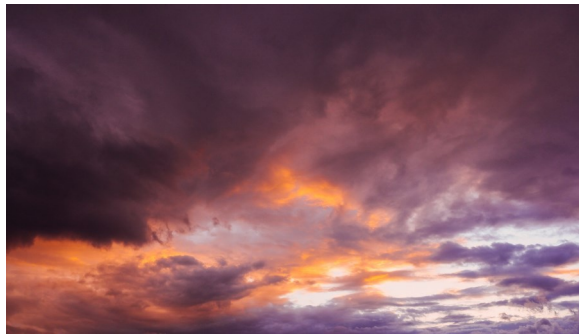
EA: It has three generations within one story and it's a short story. They have roots in the Bay Area because it sort of starts with me, although I'm not in the story. They realize that they have to leave; there's no water and fires are eating up the state, and they end up in South America because they keep migrating away from the hot areas. They ultimately end up in Patagonian Chile (where I have spent time, which helped to imagine what it would be like) and then they move to Antarctica which is habitable. It's a story of that migration and a little bit of life in Antarctica.

L: *Do you see yourself trying to carve out time to do more of this kind of writing either for fun, or a book of short stories, or as something to give your daughter?*

EA: Wow, that's a great idea. You know, I don't know. As a child I wrote fiction and this is the first time in decades that I have. It was just a story that I had to write. I feel like fiction is often compelled by a story that one has to tell, and I don't have one at the moment but if I had one that would be fun.

L: *Can you tell me the name of the contest, any details about it, or how you found out about it?*

EA: Sure, it's out of Arizona State University and it's just called the Climate Fiction Contest. They have a climate and humanities project which is trying to use the creative capacity of the humanities to look at and imagine more healing possibilities and get lots of people thinking creatively about what the future holds. They were supposed to announce the winners in June



and then they sent an announcement saying that they were overwhelmed with submissions and it was taking more time to read through them all. I think it's positive that they got so many submissions.

L: *Who are your favorite climate fiction authors and do you have any recommendations for people wanting to get into reading climate fiction?*

EA: Sure. Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam* trilogy is often pointed to as the ultimate example, and I actually haven't read it because I was worried it would be too depressing. I might read it this summer — isn't that funny? I love her writing.

L: *Anyone else that you really like?*

EA: Yes, I read an anthology, *Loosed Upon the World*, it's a really thick book of Cli-Fi short stories that were pretty amazing. I felt like short stories were accessible and not so depressing in smaller bites. *Kim Stanley Robinson* is somebody who writes in that genre. I heard him speak about two years ago and really liked the way he talked and what he talked about. He's a fiction writer living in the Bay Area and now that I think about it he was sort of an inspiration for the project. He has a few books and he has a story in *Loosed Upon the World*.

L: *I'm very drawn to this genre. It could definitely be a career path for a PCC graduate.*

EA: That would be amazing! We have so many great writers and really creative people.

L: *Yes, Cli-Fi is cathartic and inspiring for me to read. In terms of re-enchanting our worldview, having the Earth, or the climate, as a character feels very important.*

EA: Yes, that's something that I really appreciate about Cli-Fi because most fictions still operate with the Earth or the environment as background or as just a stage upon which everything takes place. I just thought of *A Perfect Storm*, Sebastian Junger's book. It's not Cli-Fi per se, but it foregrounds the ocean as a character really affecting how all the drama plays out. I think that to see that in climate fiction is powerful and it's a really important shift in the human-environment connection where we're realizing that we're not the only characters in this play.

