



Prof. Geoffrey Samuel: Reimagining our Embodiment as Part of Life:
Finding a new way to live sustainably on the earth



Prof Geoffrey Samuel is an anthropologist and researcher of interrelated areas within religious studies, social anthropology, comparative sociology, and cognate disciplines. Explore how we can reimagine our relationship to the earth, and how indigenous peoples have related to earth and its non-human life. If we are to find a way to live sustainably on the earth and to regenerate our damaged planet, we need to live a new story in which we are embodied dwellers on the earth.

TOP EMBODIMENT TIP: Experiencing the world from the perspective of trees, plants, animals, and other non-human life forms, enables our own survival and gives *all* life forms the chance to flourish in a fast-changing world.

Learning from Indigenous Peoples: Embodied Relationship to the Natural World

- Indigenous people: relationship with the earth is sung, danced, and moved, as well as thought and reflected on.
- The world is part of an interactive network between human and non-human life forms. Acknowledge trees, plants, animals, and non-human life forms. Climate change is an exciting time, it's an opportunity.

Creating a New Story: Seeing with New Eyes

- Discussion on 'modern' and 'earth-dweller' attitudes; the ontological turn in anthropology, & Joanna Macy.
- Embodied, emotional engagement in sustainable practices will together, energize us.

(Re-)Building Sustainable, Restorative and Regenerative Ecosystems: Learning from the Natural World

- Concepts: how the natural world adapts; surviving/thriving; the ability to use this knowledge and solve human problems; symbiosis
- Regenerate and build self-sustaining, self-repairing ecosystems that support all life on earth.

Surviving and Flourishing: Recapturing an Embodied Relationship with the Natural World

- 'Collapsology' - collapse likely to be an intermittent and progressive process, not apocalyptic. What kind of people do we need to become, to navigate both the now and the future?
- Living creatures feel, sense, smell, hear and see. They also learn to survive and flourish within many different worlds. Value and look after the land; things are moving fast, but humans can learn to cope and adapt.

Resources:

- ❖ **References:** Gauthier Chapelle, Pablo Servigne and Raphaël Stevens: *Une Autre Fin du Monde est Possible* (2015), *Another End to the World is Possible* (2021), *How Everything Can Collapse* (Polity Press, 2020), Pablo Servigne and Raphaël Stevens: *Comment Tout Peut S'Effondrer* (2015), Joanna Macy: *Coming Back to Life* (2004), Bruno Latour: *Down To Earth* (2018), Jess Hill quoting Victor Steffeson in *The Guardian* (2020)



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The initiative was founded by Nicoleta Carpineanu (aka Nico de Transylvania), a Romanian, UK-based DJ/Producer who grew up in the forests of Transylvania. We began our first key project in Romania in April 2019 and in our first year planted over 25,000 trees. We reforest land that has been clear-cut, where natural reforestation would not occur. We only plant native, biodiverse species, grown locally and cared for until maturity in legally protected areas, adjacent to existing natural forests. Our aim is to plant one million trees in the Carpathians and beyond by 2025.

OUR MISSION is to preserve our forests and the people and wildlife they nurture, and to promote connection with nature through music, art, and culture.