

## Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University

<http://fore.yale.edu>

The Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale is the largest international multireligious project of its kind. With its conferences, publications, and website it is engaged in exploring religious worldviews, texts, and ethics in order to broaden understanding of the complex nature of current environmental concerns, especially climate change. The Forum recognizes that religions need to be in dialogue with other disciplines (e.g., science, economics, and public policy) in seeking comprehensive solutions to both global and local environmental problems. The Forum arose from a series of ten conferences held at Harvard from 1996 to 1998 and the resulting volumes on the world religions and ecology. Now based at Yale, the Forum is integral to the MA program in religion and ecology between the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the Divinity School. Ten online courses have been developed to extend the reach of this program.

Over the last 20 years, religion and ecology has become a field of study in academia and a force for religious environmentalism in society. Statements on ecological protection and hundreds of grassroots projects are collected on the Forum website. Many of these focus on the challenge of climate change. The Forum organized the first conference on religion and climate change published in *Daedalus* 2001 <https://www.amacad.org/content/publications/publication.aspx?d=845>

This website is a comprehensive international resource for research, education, engagement, and outreach in the field of religion and ecology. It contains annotated bibliographies on the world religions and their ecological contributions. The website includes teaching aids such as: syllabi, lists of educational videos, and other multimedia resources. The website provides information on news, publications, and events related to religion and ecology. This is distributed through the Forum's monthly email newsletter that is circulated to some 12,000 people worldwide.



## Journey of the Universe [www.journeyoftheuniverse.org](http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org)



This multimedia project presents an epic story of cosmic, Earth, and human transformation. It consists of a film, a book, and a series of conversations. Drawing on the discoveries of modern science and the wisdom of the world's cultures, *Journey of the Universe* tells a compelling story that reveals our deep connection to the web of life.

### Film (2011, 56 minutes)

Winner of a 2012 **Emmy® Award** for best documentary, the film, narrated by Brian Swimme, weaves an engaging story of the unfolding universe and humanity's evolving place in it. Available from Amazon and on iTunes.

### Book (2011, 175 pages; paperback 2014)

The *Journey of the Universe* book, authored by Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker, is published by Yale University Press. It integrates the perspectives of the sciences and the humanities into a lyrical telling of our 13.8 billion year story. Translations of the book are currently available in French, Italian, Russian, Turkish, Korean, and Chinese.

### Conversations (2011, 4 DVDs, approx. 10 hours)

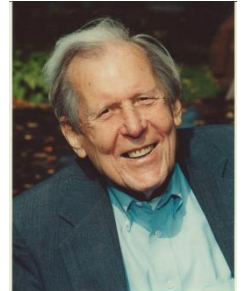
This educational series consists of 20 interviews with scientists, historians, environmentalists, and educators. These interviews deepen understanding of evolutionary processes and illustrate engaged environmental work inspired by the universe story perspective.

### Website and Curricular materials

The *Journey of the Universe* website has articles and bibliographies for teaching. A curriculum designed for use in undergraduate and high school classrooms, learning centers, places of worship, and conferences is available free of charge for download at: [www.journeyoftheuniverse.org/curriculum](http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org/curriculum)

## Thomas Berry Foundation [www.thomasberry.org](http://www.thomasberry.org)

The mission of the Thomas Berry Foundation is to carry out the “great work” of enhancing the flourishing of the Earth community. Created in 1998, the Foundation has promoted Thomas’ ideas through publishing his essays, overseeing translations, initiating an archive at Harvard, organizing the Thomas Berry Award and Lecture, developing the *Journey of the Universe* trilogy, and supporting the work of the American Teilhard Association. In addition, the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale builds on the innovative work of Thomas in the history of world religions through a joint degree program in religion and ecology as well as through conferences, publications and a website.



## American Teilhard Association [www.teilharddechardin.org](http://www.teilharddechardin.org)

The American Teilhard Association is a membership-based organization committed to making the thought and vision of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin more widely available. Teilhard was a French Jesuit and paleontologist who lived from 1881-1955. Teilhard brings an encompassing evolutionary perspective for shaping the well being of the Earth community at a time when so many disintegrating forces are at work.



To assist in this process, the Association, since its foundation in 1967, has sponsored conferences, lecture series, and a variety of publications. *Teilhard Perspectives* is a bi-annual newsletter of the Association that presents short articles, book reviews, and personal notes. *Teilhard Studies* is a monograph series concerned with the future of human-Earth relations in light of the writings of Teilhard. An annual meeting is held every spring in New York City.

## John Grim and Mary Evelyn Tucker



John Grim and Mary Evelyn Tucker are Senior Lecturers and Senior Research Scholars at Yale University, where they teach in the joint MA program between the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and the Divinity School. They are founders and directors of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale. Together they organized a series of conferences on World Religions and Ecology at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard. They are series editors for the ten volumes from the conferences, distributed by Harvard University Press. They have published and edited many volumes including *Ecology and Religion* (Island Press, 2014). For a full list of their works: [www.emergingeearthcommunity.org](http://www.emergingeearthcommunity.org)

Tucker and Grim studied world religions with the historian of religions, Thomas Berry, and worked closely with him for 35 years. They are managing trustees of the Thomas Berry Foundation and edited many of Berry's works. Together with Brian Swimme they created the *Journey of the Universe* film, book, and Conversations series.

Mary Evelyn's special area of study is Asian religions, especially Confucianism. She served on the International Earth Charter Drafting Committee from 1997-2000 and was a member of the Earth Charter International Council for ten years. She is vice-president of the American Teilhard Association, along with Brian Swimme.

John is a specialist in indigenous traditions, especially Native American religions. He has published *The Shaman* and edited *Indigenous Traditions and Ecology*. He has been president of the American Teilhard Association since 1987.

## With Gratitude to

- ❖ Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
- ❖ Yale Divinity School
- ❖ Germeshausen Foundation
- ❖ Engelhard Foundation
- ❖ Reverend Albert P. Neilson
- ❖ Marianne and Jim Welch
- ❖ Kendeda Sustainability Fund
- ❖ V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation

## Staff

Chief Administrator & Project Coordinator:  
*Tara C. Trapani*

Website Coordinator & Forum Newsletter Editor:  
*Elizabeth McAnally*

Forum Research Associate & Online Support:  
*Matthew T. Riley, Ph.D.*

## Contact

Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University  
195 Prospect St.  
New Haven, CT 06525  
[tcmk@aya.yale.edu](mailto:tcmk@aya.yale.edu)

Thomas Berry Foundation  
29 Spoke Drive  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
[tcmk@aya.yale.edu](mailto:tcmk@aya.yale.edu)

American Teilhard Association  
29 Spoke Drive  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
[tcmk@aya.yale.edu](mailto:tcmk@aya.yale.edu)

# THE FORUM ON RELIGION AND ECOLOGY AT YALE



***We are not lacking in the dynamic forces  
needed to create the future. We live immersed  
in a sea of energy beyond all comprehension.  
But this energy, in an ultimate sense, is ours not  
by domination but by invocation.***

Thomas Berry, *The Great Work*