

The Ecognosis Seminars
Texas A & M University
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"Bush Like Structure", Lindenmayer System, *The Algorithmic Botany of Plants*

The greatest delight which the fields and woods minister, is the suggestion of an occult relation between man and the vegetable. I am not alone and unacknowledged. They nod to me, and I to them. The waving of the boughs in the storm, is new to me and old. It takes me by surprise, and yet is not unknown. Emerson, ["Nature"](#)

This series of seminars, practicums and workshops will hone participant attention toward the experience of a surprising and yet not unknown "ecognosis" - knowledge by identity with the ecosystemic scale beyond perception or conception as the synesthetic being that you are. This practiced experiential (or "imperiential") not-simply-cognitive recognition - surprise, you're alive! - of your biological aspect can dwindle the apparent boundary between "organism" and "environment", yielding the "Superorganism" labeled by the late biologists Lynn Margulis and James Lovelock as "Gaia". In this "ecodelic" experience - whose necessary and sufficient condition is mayhaps Meister Eckhart's *gelassenheit*, a practiced letting go into the dissolution of identity - the apparently local transmission of "me and my story" fades and the background

archetypal, ancestral and ecosystemic (and often fractal, as above) realities can emerge. While the language and technologies of information, code, genome, transcription and translation encode an unmistakable division of ecosystems and living systems into “subjects” and “objects”, “transcriber and transcribed”, “organisms” and “environments”, the gestalt into *Gaia* or *Attabei* in ecognosis summons scales of resonance and redundancy - they repeat each other - other than any isolated “agency” and dissolves apparent “subjects” into the Whole.

Standing on the bare ground,—my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space,—all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eye-ball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God. Emerson, [“Nature”](#)

With practice in these seminars and workshops, French philosophe Blanchot’s “Who?” resounds into an apparently empty forest and rebounds with the sound of cicadas in Plato’s *Phaedrus*. Tune in as *jnani yogi* Ramana Maharshi responds with the chant of “Nan Jar?”, the gentle but relentless inquiry into the nature, location and temporality of any sentient being who has ever been alive: “Who am I? Where am I? When am I?” Whistle along with Darwin as we map the overlap between bird song and the evolution of human language, and begin to chant with Shankara, *cittananda rupah, shivo hum, shivo hum*. In short, an exaltation of ecosystemic scale information emerges, as “all mean egoity vanishes” and Gaia herself grabs the mic. Come prepared to drop your scrolls.

DMNinishment: The Default Mode Network & “You” (Tune in),

February 21, 2024, 11:00am-12:00pm, GLAS 311

...all mean egoity vanishes...

Don't trust the science, test it. In this 55 minute session, participants will walk through the contemporary neuroscientific literature on the Default Mode Network, the first person experience of “I, me, Mine” as correlated by neuroscience and birthed by the language of information from molecular biology and its legacies. Practices for observing the emergence and diminishment of this “network” will be enacted and explored.

Suggested Readings:

Judson Brewer et. al [Meditation experience is associated with differences in default mode network activity and connectivity](#)

Maurice Blanchot, [Who?](#)

Ramana Maharshi, [Who Am I?](#)

Shut Up and Chant (Turn on)

February 21, 2024, 1:00pm-2:00pm, GLAS 311

... I become a transparent eye-ball...

When Nobel Laureate Herbert Simon famously noted that “What information consumes is obvious: it consumes the attention of the recipient”, he pointed to the seldom noted *sacrificial* quality of attention economies based on the exchange of “information.” Thinking beyond ego is a sacrificial event - the I is abandoned in favor of a larger scale apprehension. Each attentional event - being informed - represents an opportunity cost for some other attentional event. When information is “consumed”, attention is *sacrificed*. In the case of digital attention, each apprehension of attention involves the sacrifice of ecosystemic attention: Every captcha you complete is a bit of sky not glimpsed. This 55 minute workshop will provide exigence for this epidemic of information and attentional sacrifice and insurgent tactics for responding to it with chanting into thriving and healing.

Suggested Reading:

[Shut Up and Chant](#)

Stoned on Algorithmic Botany, With Special Reference to Your Very Own Breath (Drop Out)

February 22, 2024, 10:00am-11:00am, GLAS 311

...an occult relation between man and the vegetable...

In this guided session, participants will explore the visual world of fractals and algorithmic botany based on Lindenmayer Systems. In observing the visual dynamics of L-Systems, we can become bedazzled by the remarkable order that emerges out of simple and often arbitrary rules - a botanical domain immanent to the silicon realm, what anthropologist Stefan Helmreich calls "silicon second nature." With our eyes soft on math and dendrites, we'll dive into the labyrinth of the lungs through simple methods of *prana* yoga, and give thanks for the plants with which we breathe, the minimum seven trees each of us coexists with just to breathe. *Ecognosis is.*

Suggested Readings:

[Finding Animals With Plant Intelligence](#)

[Healing with Plant Intelligence: A Report From Ayahuasca](#)

[The Algorithmic Beauty of Plants](#)

[Lindenmayer System Generator](#)