

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DAVID LOYE

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Abstract

David Loye's legacy shines through many aspects of the work undertaken at the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies* (IJPS) and the Center for Partnership Systems (CPS). This article is a collection of tributes by journal editorial board members and CPS staff members in the form of personal reflections and key insights into Loye's developed theory of moral sensitivity and his poetic contributions.

Keywords: David Loye; Moral Sensitivity; the Future; Leadership; Prediction; Racism; Scholarship; Empathy

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Letter from the Executive Editor of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies*

Teddie M. Potter, PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP

When people suffer the effects of a broken or dysfunctional social system, it is natural to become frustrated with the pace of change. Yet, those who call for executive orders or authoritarian directives to address structural challenges are missing an opportunity to shift the dominant narrative and dismantle the offensive structure. Transformative and lasting transformative change involves an intentional process of advancing a desire for change and growing the number of people willing

to work across divisions to build the better future that is possible. It means avoiding a tendency to divide people into adherents and non-adherents, believers and non-believers, givers and takers. Lasting transformative change requires relationships built on principles of partnership, including empathy, mutual respect, and moral sensitivity founded on caring.

In many ways, our society continues its trajectory toward a partnership orientation. This shift is possible thanks to countless thought leaders, scientists, educators, and social change agents who have gone before us. One of the people we owe a debt of gratitude to is Dr. David Loye. In his book, *Darwin's Lost Theory: Bridge to a Better World* (2007b), Loye writes about Charles Darwin's case for moral evolution rather than "survival of the fittest." Analyzing Darwin's writing in *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex* (1871), Loye found that "Darwin wrote only twice about survival of the fittest -- *but 95 times about love and 92 times about moral sensitivity*" (Loye, 2007, p. 2). Loye emphasizes Darwin's conclusion that evolution is influenced by moral qualities that are advanced or transformed by habit, education, and religion much more than natural selection (Loye, 2007). This observation offers all of us a message of hope and possibility for a better a future.

In Memory of David Loye

Heidi Bruce, MA

In addition to his musings on psychology, moral evolution theory, and social action, David Loye was a poet at heart. As a tribute to his emphasis on love and caring as undergirding energies of a more complete vision of human evolution, cradle to grave, I share the following poem, which I wrote after hospicing my mother through her passing in 2021.

Loved, Between the Moon and the Sun

*Cradled at dawn
Between the Moon and the Sun*

*Delicately balanced suspension bridge, swaying
I relish in the descent and ascent, in the shifting shadows and brilliance
This is the time of day I feel most alive
Like the two moments of distilled pride in my life -
Ushering my son into this world and accompanying my mother out of this world
Loved, between presence and absence*

Exploring Moral Sensitivity

Stephanie D. Gingerich, DNP, RN-BC, CPN

David Loye, a psychologist and evolutionary systems scientist, challenges us to consider Darwin's theories and lesser-known works on moral evolution and moral sensitivity. He uncovers writings in which Darwin identifies humans as driven more by love and meaning in life than by survival of the fittest as we have been led to believe, and argues that more important than survival of the fittest are the elements of love and the emotion of sympathy (Loye, 2007b).

In what ways can we harness the love, sympathy, caring, education, moral evolution, and moral sensitivity that Loye refers to? Where do we start?

We can start with stories. We each have a story. Everyone's story is made up of different phases, history, people, places, and experiences. No one story is the same; it is our stories that make us unique.

Just in the past few years, we have witnessed a global pandemic, George Floyd's murder which led to an international call for change in policing and eradication of racism, cyber bullying, and the devastating effects of climate change. What can be done? How do we stop the progression of hate, violence, and illness? We start with stories. We go back to love and sympathy. We listen. We remove the masks of invisibility and return to humanity with a vision for a better future.

We have an obligation to future generations to be the change and move our evolution forward rather than backward. We can start by listening. Let us begin showing the love and sympathy that Darwin and Loye wrote of, and challenge the mentality of survival of the fittest with which the domination mentality aligns. Let us embrace one another's stories to learn how to make the change we need to improve health for individuals, families, communities, nations, and our planet. In sharing our stories, in listening to the stories of others, we can and will create a better future.

A Farewell to David Loye

Renee Pardello, MEd

David Loye's work in moral sensitivity and transformation has motivated me to reflect on my work with [OneVillage Partners](#), a non-profit organization whose work is to enhance the collective well-being in Sierra Leone by investing in the people and communities through partnerships. Aspects of international work are often inherently laced with structural and historical racism and colonization. We continue to ask: How do we decolonize our organization as we recognize the effects of colonization on our work today?

Loye's re-examination of Darwin's theory of evolution, to focus on love rather than survival of the fittest, has inspired me to unlearn and relearn what makes a community thrive. By incorporating moral sensitivity as we build the equity framework into our organizational policies, we better understand and acknowledge the value of ethical partnership based on science. Using Loye's framework gives us a map towards decolonization, inclusion, and equity for our organization's board and volunteers. The ability to measure change, for me and many others, creates legitimacy.

Combining Empathy for the Human Condition with Intellectual Rigor:

Honoring David Loye, PhD

Quincey Tickner, BA

As Vice President and Co-Founder of the Center for Partnership Systems (CPS), David Loye played a major role in furthering its mission of promoting human rights, nonviolence, gender and racial equity, and child development, using the latest findings in social and biological science.

Loye's groundbreaking work is woven into all aspects of the CPS. As someone who has worked for the CPS for the past few years, I quickly learned that to work for the CPS is to work to further not only Riane Eisler's life's work, but David Loye's as well. His legacy shines through all the work we do at the CPS, so we want to honor him for his contributions not only to the Center but to the world.

Loye had the unique ability to connect the dots between personal lives and public policy to address the root causes, rather than merely the symptoms, of dysfunction and injustice. He was a rare person who combined empathy for the human condition with intellectual rigor.

Mutuality, love, and moral sensitivity are essential components of partnership cultures, making Loye's work reexamining Charles Darwin's theories, published in his book *Darwin's Lost Theory: Bridge to a Better World* (2007b), a main pillar of cultural transformation.

Eisler's and Loye's work multiplies and harmoniously paints a dramatically new picture of our understanding of Darwin and of evolution itself. In his article in the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies*, "Untangling Partnership and Domination Morality" (2013), Loye uses Eisler's cultural transformation theory to explain the formation of morality and the construction of conscience. He contrasts partnership morality with domination morality, and describes the factors that shape our tendency to embrace one or the other. His article helps us understand that we have a choice, and invites us to choose partnership morality.

The love and wisdom that Eisler and Loye shared is an example of a partnership of two people who leave an inspired legacy of evolutionary teachings that tap into the source of the universe and what makes the human species reach evermore to unify, beautify, and regenerate.

The world needs all of us to continue Loye's work through the Center for Partnership Systems and the Darwin Project.

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