

GORDON L. MILLER

Environmental Studies Program
Seattle University
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Primary academic areas: History and philosophy of science (esp. natural history and ethology, Romanticism and science, Whiteheadian philosophy); animal communication and acoustic ecology; history and evolution of language; environmental history

EDUCATION

M.Phil., Cambridge University, 1989
Ph.D., Rutgers University, 1987
M.L.S., Indiana University, 1980
M.A., Butler University, 1980
B.S., Milligan College, 1976

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters

Work in preparation

“From Cells to Psyche: On the Combination Problem in Process Thought,” for submission to *Process Studies*.

“The Cell Theory and the Soul: Insights through the Lens of History and Philosophy” currently under review at *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*.

Published work

“The Pulse of Life and the Rhythms of Mind,” in *Sensoria: Attending to the Wonder and Vitality of Nature*, edited by Bruce Jennings and Gavin Van Horn (Libertyville, IL: Center for Humans and Nature Press, 2026), pp. 91-102.

“Sense and Symbolic Sensibility: The Rise of Amphibians and the Roots of Language in Whiteheadian Perspective,” *Process Studies*, 53.1 (2024): 7-41.

“The Soul of the Frog for a Postmodern Age: Updating a Classic Debate,” *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 59.3 (2024): 609-37. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16995/zygon.16572>.

“The Intervening Touch of Mentality: Food Seeking in Frogs and Whitehead’s Philosophy of Organism,” *Process Studies* 50.2 (2021): 155-200.

Review of Wolfgang Schad, *Threefoldness in Humans and Mammals: Toward a Biology of Form*, 2 vols., *Worldviews* 25.2 (2021): 174-176.

“The Rain Calls of Frogs and the Reigning Paradigm of American Herpetology” *Archives of Natural History* 48.1 (2021): 42-61. (DOI: 10.3366/anh.2020.0649).

“Eurythmy and Natural History,” introduction to Rudolf Steiner, *Introductions to Eurythmy: An Extension of Goethe’s Morphological Thinking Within the Realm of Human Movement*, pp. 12-34. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Keryx, 2019.

“Beasts of the New Jerusalem: John Jonston’s Natural History and the Launching of Millenarian Pedagogy in the Seventeenth Century” *History of Science* 46 (2008): 203-243.

“The Fowls of Heaven and the Fate of the Earth: Assessing the Early Modern Revolution in Natural History,” *Worldviews* 9.1 (2005): 57-81.

“Thomas Browne” — signed article in *Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World*, edited by Jonathan Dewald. New York: Scribners, 2004, pp. 328-29.

“Benjamin Rush” — signed article in *The History of Science in the United States: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Marc Rothenberg. New York: Garland, 2001, pp. 485-86.

“Dimensions of Deformity,” in *Nature’s Fading Chorus: Classic and Contemporary Writings on Amphibians*, edited by Gordon L. Miller. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2000, pp. 203-13.

- Reprinted in *Keeping Things Whole: Readings in Environmental Science*. Chicago: Great Books Foundation, 2003, pp. 275-290.

“Jonathan Edwards’ Sublime Book of Nature,” *History Today* 46 (July 1996): 29-35.

Essay review of *The Enchanted Loom: Chapters in the History of Neuroscience*, edited by Pietro Corsi, *Magill’s Literary Annual* 1992, pp. 183-87.

Review of Daniel J. Boorstin, *The Discoverers: An Illustrated History of Man’s Search to Know His World and Himself* (deluxe 1991 edition), *Magill Book Reviews*, 1992.

Signed 2500-word articles in *Great Events in History: Science and Technology*. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem Press, 1991:

“Werner Heisenberg Articulates the Uncertainty Principle (1927),” pp. 835-40

“The First Electronic Stored-Program Computer (BINAC) in the U.S. is Completed (1949),” pp. 1347-52

“Charles Babbage and the Design of Intelligence: Computers and Society in 19th-Century England,” *Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society* 10, no. 2 (1990): 68-76.

“Literacy and the Hippocratic Art: Reading, Writing, and Epistemology in Ancient Greek Medicine,” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 45 (January 1990): 11-40.

“Resonance and the Energy of Intelligence,” *Information and Behavior* 3 (1990): 349-63.

Signed articles in *The Great Scientists*, Danbury, Conn.: Grolier, 1989:

“Eugen Bleuler 1857-1939” Vol. 2, pp. 131-36

“Josef Breuer 1842-1925” Vol. 2, pp. 191-97

“Pierre Janet 1859-1947” Vol. 6, pp. 156-61

“The Concept of Information: An Historical Perspective on Modern Theory and Technology,” *Information and Behavior* 2 (1988): 27-53.

Books

The Metamorphosis of Plants, by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, introduction, appendix, and photography by Gordon L. Miller, Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2009; paperback edition 2024. 155 pp.

Nature’s Fading Chorus: Classic and Contemporary Writings on Amphibians, Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2000. 263 pp. (editor and contributor)

Wisdom of the Earth: Visions of an Ecological Faith, Seattle: Green Rock Press, 1997, 172 pp. (editor and photographer)

Benjamin Rush, M.D.: A Bibliographic Guide, Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1996. 252 pp. (with Claire G. Fox and Jacquelyn C. Miller)

The History of Science: An Annotated Bibliography, Pasadena, Calif.: Salem Press, 1992. 207 pp.

30 Walks in New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992. 243 pp. (with Kevin Dann)

Other Publications

Contributor to the article “The animals you can count on to predict the weather, according to science,” by Jackie Wattles. CNN.com, Feb. 2, 2024: <https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/02/world/can-groundhogs-predict-weather-scn/index.html>

Editor of record for 38 plant and animal species accounts co-authored by Seattle University natural history students and published online in the *Encyclopedia of Life* (2016-18), curated by the Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology and the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

Topical Conference Presentations

“Your Inner Frog: Larynx, Language, and the Emergence of Voice in Nature,” presented at the University of Washington-Tacoma Environmental Seminar Series, December 2014.

“Rudolf Steiner, Owen Barfield, and the Origin of Language,” presented at the Center for Anthroposophical Endeavors, November 2014 (Seattle).

“The Play’s the Thing: The Goethean Theater of Life from Adolf Portmann to Biosemiotics,” presented at the International Human Sciences Research Conference, June 2012 (Montreal).

“Resounding Morphology: Elements of a Goethean Acoustics,” presented at the International Human Sciences Research Conference, 2011 (Oxford, England).

“Signs of Life in Leaves and Clouds: A Goethean Inquiry,” presented at the International Human Sciences Research Conference, 2010 (Seattle, WA).

Lecture Series

Four-part lecture series exploring the question “Does a Frog Have a Soul?” from the varied perspectives of the history of science, paleontology, philosophy, neuroscience, and the evolution of language presented at Parkshore Senior Living Community, Seattle — June-July 2023.

RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cambridge University

Visiting Scholar: April-July 2022

Conducted research on amphibian paleontology and evolution, with a special focus on the expansion of sensory experience and the emergence of vocalization, in consultation with distinguished paleontologist and evolutionary biologist Simon Conway Morris, FRS.

Seattle University

Emeritus Professor, Environmental Studies Program: 2020 – present

Environmental Studies Program Director: 2007-17

History Department and Environmental Studies Program Faculty: 1998 - 2020

Responsible for teaching courses in the history of science and technology, environmental history, the nature writing tradition, acoustic ecology, and natural history, as well as (during the period indicated) for directing the Environmental Studies Program, including supervision of the urban agriculture project, obtaining grant support and private gifts, coordinating internships, etc., etc.

Courses taught:

EVST 2100: Natural History
EVST 3600: Nature Writing and Environmentalism
EVST 3740: Acoustic Ecology
EVST 3650: Environmental Psychology

HIST 1210: Revolutions in Modern Science
HIST 1210: Romantic Ecology in America
HIST 3510: Environmental History
HIST 3920: History of Science in Britain

SOCL 2020: Human Ecology and Geography

Awards: 2013 College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Advisor Award

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

The Center for Process Studies
Society for the History of Natural History
Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles