

**Project Title:** “SPIRITUAL LAWS, HUMAN FLOURISHING, AND GLOBAL HUMANISM”  
**Research Scholar:** William Schweiker, *The University of Chicago*

### **Short Bibliography**

#### 1. Bodily/Material Dimension:

**Felipe Fernández-Armesto**, *A Foot in the River: Why Our Lives Change and the Limits of Evolution* (Oxford University Press, 2015). Historian Fernández-Armesto has written a challenging and controversial book arguing that cultural and cultural change is exempt from evolution and, accordingly, we can make and remark our world and lives. This is an engaging text about the enhancement of cultural forms in relation to biological processes.

**Edward O. Wilson**, *The Social Conquest of Earth* (New York, NY: Liveright Publishing, 2012). This is a powerful origin theory about the evolution of life on earth and the importance of advanced social life to evolution. Seeking a “consilience” between the natural and social sciences, Wilson, a leading biologist, is after the dynamics of evolution and so helpful in thinking about “spiritual laws” and the health of biological life.

#### 2. Social Dimension:

**Axel Honneth**, *Freedom’s Right: The Social Foundations of Democratic Life*, trans. J. Ganahl (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2014). A leading social theorist and philosopher known for his important work on “recognition” argues that concrete specific social spheres generate conditions of freedom and justice. This allows for the formulation of the idea of “Democratic Ethical Life” and the reality of freedom in enhancing social existence.

**Nicholas Wolterstorff**, *Justice: Rights and Wrongs* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010). Wolterstorff is an important “analytic” philosopher attentive to theological claims. His book just makes a helpful contrast between “justice as order” and “justice as an order of rights” and defends a conception of justice and rights. Insofar as “justice” is the integrity of social life, on my account, this work is an important sparring partner.

#### 3. Local/Environmental Dimension:

**Robert Pogue Harrison**, *Gardens: An Essay on the Human Condition* (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2008). Robert Harrison is Professor of Italian at Stanford University and author of several books on the significance of “places” or locales for human existence. In this book he seeks to explore the place of “cultivation” in human history.

**Erazim Kohák**, *The Embers and the Stars: A Philosophical Inquiry into the Moral Sense of Nature* (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 1987). Kohák’s *The Embers and the Stars* is an underground classic that provides a phenomenology of the ingression of value in the natural world. An elegantly written text, this work expands our ideas about the locale of human and non-human existence.