

Amie Post, LMFT

### Microbes and Human Functioning – An Elegant Dance

This paper will present findings about microbes by articulating an understanding of what and where they are, what they do and how they interact with one another and with other species. A broader lens will capture how microbes function between and amongst themselves and other species in mutually reciprocating patterns over time that impact the functioning of all involved. It is posited that seeing the reciprocal functioning among and between all of life will elucidate the necessity of human responsibility for the earth.

Mary Catherine Bass, MDiv., LICSW

### The Application of Bowen Theory to Land-Use in Agriculture, Farm Management and Rural Living

The two-part presentation addresses how the concepts of Bowen theory apply to agroecology and land use in general. The presentation looks at family, community and societal emotional process in relation to returning to my ancestral home, managing the family farm and participating in my community of origin.

Bennett Titler, PhD

### On the Evolution of Science

For science to more accurately encompass animal behavior and the human being, it will need to broaden its scope and to better understand the role and activity of the scientist. There will be a review of new works such as Yuval Noah Harai's "Sapiens" and will include Dr. Bowen's writings on science and subjectivity.

Laurie Lassiter, PhD, LICSW

### *Homo sapiens* as a Natural System

Based on Observations of a wide range of species, what are the common characteristics of natural systems? What does the human have in common with other natural systems and what is unique in the human? What does Bowen theory contribute to an understanding of natural systems in general? This presentation focuses on possible answers for these questions and includes a discussion of how Differentiation of Self and its variation fits with the natural system of *Homo sapiens*.

Ann V. Nicholson, RN, MS, CS

### Man's Use of Water - A View of the Emotional System

Maude Barlow, author of Blue Covenant states the world is running out of fresh water. Fresh water is a finite resource even though it may not seem this way for the citizens of the developed countries who simply turn on their tap. But walking five miles to fetch a half-day supply of water, often dirty water, provides a very different view as well as a greater respect for this natural resource.

This presentation will provide an overview of the world's water supply and man's use and abuse of this natural resource. Bowen theory with its natural systems perspective offers a broader lens to study man's relationship with planet earth and all of its bounty. Man's impact on the environment could be better understood if man knew himself more accurately and realistically.

Barbara Le Blanc, BA

### Words Matter

Public communications can be responsible or irresponsible. They can serve the good functioning of a society or be a potent conveyor of anxiety and intensity which, under certain conditions, can accelerate the social processes that undermine functioning. Dr. Bowen suggested that democracy as a form of government was inherently unstable because elections are emotionally based. News stories, advertisements, talk radio programs and, now, social media are vehicles for spreading that emotionality. They deserve to be examined from that perspective, as the recent election suggests.

Patricia Comella, JD

### *A Beginning Theory about Society as an Emotional System*

In 1976, Bowen wrote, ". . . the theoretical concepts of the Bowen theory do permit logical extension into a beginning theory about society as an emotional system." (Bowen 1978, p 387).

In this presentation I will discuss my progress to date in accomplishing such an extension.