

 [IP-- Lifeism and Teresa Kuan email by Anthony J. Marsella](#) by Louise S. [2014, Mar 26]

Dear Louise:

Would you be kind enough to share this attachment with our listserv. It is relevant to Kuan's email. regarding Bateson's "Ecology of Mind," and her interest in social and biological ecology - "close to nature."

Attached please find an article on "Lifeism," a term which I am using to advocate that we must move beyond humanism and human identities (e.g., self, ethnicity, nation) to an acknowledgement that we are first and foremost creatures of "life, and with this goes certain assumptions and responsibilities.

May I also say I had the opportunity and privilege to meet with Professor Bateson during his stay in Hawaii. We spoke about dolphins, schizophrenia, and ecology. It was wonderful.

Warm regards, Tony

PS: Your chapter on solitude enriched my life as I age. Thanks. :-)

 [Lifeism Article TRANSCEND MEDIA SERVICE](#)

 [Comment by Louise Sundararajan](#) by Louise S. [2014, Mar 26]

Dear Teresa and Tony,

I can add another piece to the notion of Lifeism as the deep connection that runs like a thread through all forms of life. This is the Chinese notion of ganlei, which has some affinity to the animistic notion of like attracts like. Here are two relevant papers:

Sundararajan, L. (in press). Mind, machine, and creativity: An artist's perspective. The Journal of Creative Behavior.

Sundararajan, L. (2009). The painted dragon in emotion theories: Can the Chinese notion of ganlei add a transformative detail? Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, 29, 114-121.

Attached.

Thanks for the inspiration,  
Louise

 [The Painted Dragons in Affective Science](#)

 [Comment by Teresa Kuan](#) by Louise S. [2014, Mar 26]

Dear Tony,

This is really fantastic! Thanks so much for sharing. I had a similar driving experience once that led me to thinking beyond humanism. I was driving to work,

when a patch of daisies caught my attention. They were all turning toward the sun in the same direction - as if with wide open arms. It got me thinking a lot about attraction and how we are not so different from flowers. I tried to tell a large table of anthropologists about this experience once, the story was received with a lot of skepticism!

And I really like the concept of lifeism. It's gotten me thinking about how to research this ethnographically.

Do you mind if I share this essay with a friend (who happens to be in occupational science and therapy)? This will be very helpful for her.

Best wishes,  
Teresa

P.S. I think I've seen Bateson admit to being a mystic somewhere in his writings. Do you know if he did in fact see himself as a mystic?

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 [Comment by Louise Sundararajan](#) by Louise S. [2014, Mar 26]

Dear All,

The following blog on "intimacy and solitude" is relevant to Lifeism as the cosmic connection between us and the world:

<http://blogs.psychcentral.com/single-at-heart/2014/03/alone-together-intimacy-in-solitude/>

Enjoy,  
Louise