

## REMEMBERING AND HONOURING DAVID LOYE

By Riane Eisler, JD, PhD(hon)

### Abstract

The following article is a personal tribute dedicated to evolutionary systems scientist, psychologist, and poet, David Loye. The article contains a collection of personal photographs of David Loye and partner, Riane Eisler alongside a poem written by Loye and the published obituary following his passing.

Keywords: David Loye; Partnership Moral Sensitivity; Evolution; Morality

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Photo credits (Left to right) Don Eddy, David Loye, David Loye

David Loye was my partner, husband, and best friend. I adored him, as I often told him. David died of Covid-19 very early in the morning of January 25, 2022. This was just two days (and a few hours) after we celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the day we met - and became inseparable.

David was an extraordinarily caring and creative man. He was a psychologist, evolutionary systems scientist, and the author of more than 30 books. His work focused on partnership moral sensitivity (as contrasted with dominator moral insensitivity), evolution, history, the evolution of morality, predicting the future, norm changing, racism, and social action. He wrote pioneering books on a still-ignored understanding of what Charles Darwin actually said about human evolution and morality. He also wrote books of adventure, travel, humor, children's stories, poems, and love. You can find his published works at <https://www.davidloye.com/bio.html/>.

During our 45 years together, I witnessed how David's own moral sensitivity and empathy informed his relations with friends and colleagues—including his relations with me. We learned from each other, cross-fertilized each other's ideas, and worked as both colleagues and partners.

David Loye gave me enormous intellectual and personal support in the development of my own work. He was a storehouse of knowledge not only about social psychology but about all the social sciences, as well as about key areas of the natural sciences, such as brain research and fields such as chaos theory and nonlinear dynamics.

But David not only generously supported and nurtured me and my work. As attested to by others in this special issue, he was an encouraging and enthusiastic supporter of creativity in many others.

So this issue not only honors David Loye for his scholarly contributions to helping create a more morally sensitive future. It also honors him for the contributions he

made to the work of many others, particularly those who, like he did, are forging new paths to a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future.



Photo credit: David Loye

This was David's favorite photo of the two of us, at home in our garden.

I am currently working on a book about David and our life together, drawing from the many poems he wrote and his writings about our life. It is tentatively called *Yet Love Remains*, the title of one of David's many beautiful poems.

Here is that poem:

The continents rise and clash and  
split apart, yet love remains.

Trees, flowers, grass, the very  
soil beneath our feet is caught up  
by the wind, yet love remains.

The flood of mail, magazines, and  
messages crests, machines ring out  
one last time, yet love remains.

I look at you, you look at me, our  
eyes meeting melt into a single  
golden crystal through all eternity,  
and love remains.

What follows is the obituary I wrote after David's death. I could write much, much more, showing how he never accepted what is and worked tirelessly for a better, more just, sustainable, and caring world. But in his short obituary, I tried to give some sense of why he was so very special as a person, and the best partner anyone could wish for.

I miss him terribly!



Photo credit: Lauralee Alben

### **Obituary:**

David Loye (born on April 26, 1925 in Palo Alto, California and died of Covid 19 on January 25, 2022 in Carmel, California) was an American author, psychologist, evolutionary scientist, and poet.

Loye's *The Healing of a Nation* won the [Anisfield-Wolfe Award](#) (earlier won by Martin Luther King, Jr.), for providing a compelling history and solutions to healing racism in America. Loye served in [World War II](#), then went to Dartmouth, and later obtained his PhD from the New School in New York.

His rich and varied career included working with journalist [Frank McGee](#) at WKYTV, editing *Oklahoma Today Magazine*, working at the Educational Testing Service, briefly teaching at Princeton University, joining the faculty at the Neuropsychiatric Institute at the [UCLA School of Medicine](#) as Research Director for the Program on Psychosocial Adaptation, studying the impact of television violence on adult behavior. He traveled to most continents, often participating in international conferences with his wife and partner of 45 years, the Austrian-born author and systems scientist Riane Eisler. David played a major role in the Center for Partnership Systems as Vice President and its inspiration.

Loye spent his last thirty years focusing on evolution, moral sensitivity, and human survival. During that time, Loye wrote about his groundbreaking discovery that Charles Darwin had a very different, still largely ignored, theory about human evolution, where he emphasized the importance of culture, love, and morality in his book *Descent of Man*, where Darwin also foreshadowed much of today's chaos, self-organizing, and nonlinear dynamics theories.

Of Loye's book *Darwin's Lost Theory*, eminent scientist [Ervin Laszlo](#) wrote "...everyone concerned with our understanding of evolution on this planet owes Loye a deep debt of gratitude...Dramatically changes our understanding of Darwin and of evolution itself." Among many others hailing the book as "of urgent importance to the intellectual discourse of the time," the noted mathematician and chaos theorist Ralph Abraham wrote that "it corrects an oversight in the history of science which has swerved the modern world off its track. ... We urgently need this book, and we need it now."

A list of Loye's over 30 books on evolution, politics, leadership, morality, and Darwin, ranging from *The Knowable Future*, *The Sphinx and the Rainbow*, and *The Evolutionary Outrider* to *Darwin's Lost Theory*, *Darwin's Second Revolution*, and *Rediscovering Darwin*, as well as the account of his life with Riane Eisler, *3,000 Years*

*of Love*, his volumes of love poetry to her, his whimsical story book, *Grandfather's Garden*, and more personal details, can be found at <https://www.davidloye.com/>.

David Loye is survived by his wife and partner of 45 years, Riane Eisler of Carmel, California (where they happily lived since 1979, walked by the beach, and wrote and enjoyed each other and life), four children from his earlier marriage: Jenella (Scott Carroll), Kate, Jon (Kathy), and Chris, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two stepdaughters, and four grandchildren by marriage.

David always had a joke for everyone and every situation, usually a whimsical and imaginative one; many still have and treasure his thoughtful, and beautiful, hand-drawn birthday and other greetings; he had great musical talent; and was the only man who could play Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Ode to Joy on a half-inch harmonica.

David was an amazing, creative, witty, gifted, and loving man. He will be terribly missed.

Note: To continue David's legacy, the [David Loye Memorial Fund](#) was created through the Center for Partnership Systems to spread and further his [vital research and writing on evolution](#), his [pioneering recovery of what Darwin really said about humans](#), [moral sensitivity](#), [love](#), and more, including David's many books. You can donate to the David Loye Memorial Fund [here](#).

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