



Love as Relational Intelligence: Navigating the Great Shift Together

WENDY ELLYATT – MYSTICS AND
SCIENTISTS CONFERENCE, APRIL 2026

www.flourishproject.net

“What if the root crisis we face isn't climate change, biodiversity loss, or pollution - but the loss of connection that drives them all? “

Remember you are Wild
webinar quote from
Kincentric Leadership &
The Repatterning
Collective

Humanity faces converging crises:

Climate instability and biodiversity collapse

Social fragmentation and rising inequality

Cultural dislocation and loss of meaning

Escalating mental health challenges

Rapid technological acceleration

These are not separate problems.

They represent a single systemic condition:

a breakdown of relationship between people,
place, planet, and future generations.

**Technological innovation alone cannot
resolve a relational collapse.**



Ecology and Economy are not separate

Calls for an economic model that is more equitable, sustainable, and responsive to the complexities of the 21st century are increasing, thereby challenging traditional mainstream economics, **including the notion that nature (eco-logy) and the eco-nomy are separate from each other.**

If the economy **is a nested system within nature** and taking place within the realms and boundaries of the natural environment, then it makes sense that in our rethinking of the dominant economic model, we ought to better understand what actual co-creation with nature and the more-than-human looks like; what challenges and opportunities arise when we implement this in our contemporary world; and how far we are in our understanding and ability to apply this in practice.

Kincentric Leadership & The Repatterning Collective





SPIRIT OF
HUMANITY
FORUM

[HOME](#)

[SOH FORUM](#) ▾

[PREVIOUS EVENTS](#) ▾

[GIFT OF PEACE](#)

[YOUTH LEADERSHIP](#)

[PUBLICATIONS](#) ▾

[GIFTS](#) ▾

[DONATE](#)

Spirit of Humanity Forum

The Way Out is In: Nordic Lighthouse Co-Laboratory for Inner Transformation Leading to Systemic Change

Reykjavík, Iceland, 14-15 April 2026





WELLBEING
ECONOMY FORUM



Follow us

The Wellbeing Economy Forum

The Power of Wellbeing: Redefining Success

April 16-17, 2026
Harpa, Reykjavík, Iceland

Register Now

Core items being discussed

- The wellbeing of people and planet
- The way out is In
- The need to redefine wealth and success
- The need for a human 'reset'
- The need to stop feeding negative stories about who we are and what is possible
- The power of sharing love-based actions and examples
- Focusing on the things that really matter
- What makes a good and meaningful life
- The restoration of playfulness and magic
- Dreaming in the future that we want to see



An artistic illustration on the left side of the slide. It features a large, stylized Earth with blue oceans and yellowish-brown landmasses. In the foreground, there are various plants with dark blue and reddish-brown leaves. A large, glowing orange-red sun or moon is visible in the upper left background against a dark blue sky with faint stars.

The Missing Dimension

Dominant responses focus on:

optimisation

efficiency

growth

control

technological solutions

What is missing

belonging

responsibility

relational repair

moral coherence

care as infrastructure



Reframing Love

In Western cultures, love is commonly understood as an emotion or personal experience

Indigenous traditions reveal something deeper:

Love functions as **relational intelligence** i.e. the capacity of living systems to attract and maintain coherence through relationship

In this respect, love is not sentimental

Love is:

- responsibility
- reciprocity
- care in action
- accountability across generations

It is how life organises itself.

Across Indigenous cultures, wellbeing is defined relationally

- kinship with land, ancestors, future generations, and more-than-human life
- reciprocal relationships with ecosystems
- custodianship rather than ownership
- collective responsibility for continuity

The individual is never separate from the whole. Life is understood as **a living network of mutual participation.**



Relational intelligence refers to the capacity to:

- sense connection across systems
- sustain right relationship
- restore balance after disruption
- make decisions with long-term consequences in mind

It includes:

- collective decision-making
- ecological attunement
- intergenerational ethics
- continuous practices of repair

**Intelligence is not located primarily in minds
Instead, it emerges between beings.**



Relational intelligence is embodied through lived practices

Storytelling

Transmits moral knowledge, ecological memory, and ancestral wisdom

Ceremony

Restores coherence following grief, conflict, or ecological harm

Intergenerational responsibility

Evaluates decisions according to the impact on future generations

These practices act as **cultural immune systems**, restoring community coherence under pressure



Indigenous cultures have developed sophisticated adaptive systems over millennia

- community cohesion during upheaval
- ecological feedback awareness
- collective resilience
- long-view governance

This is not symbolic wisdom.

It is operational knowledge refined through deep time.



Decolonial Relationality

African decolonial scholar Rutendo Lerato Ngara extends relational intelligence into epistemic justice.

She frames love as:

- ontological (how reality coheres)
- political (how dignity is restored)
- practical (how communities repair)

Through Ubuntu-informed scholarship,
love becomes a method of:

- restoring mutual recognition
- healing colonial fragmentation
- rebuilding collective coherence

For her **Love is accountability in action.**





Scientific Convergence

**Modern science is increasingly aligning with
Indigenous relational ontologies:**

cognition arises through relationship (Humberto Maturana)

living systems operate as interdependent networks (Fritjof Capra)

ecosystems flourish through reciprocity (Robin Wall Kimmerer)

wellbeing emerges across nested relational contexts (Nora Bateson)

cooperation as a primary driver of adaptation (Elinor Ostrom)

Across disciplines, a shared insight appears:

Life evolves through relationship

As above, so below

Contemporary thinkers are now extending relational intelligence to cosmological and informational scales

Indigenous and decolonial traditions suggest that it must also remain grounded in lived responsibility.

Seen this way, love is not abstraction

It is enacted daily through:

- land stewardship
- kinship systems
- ceremony
- restorative justice
- wellbeing economies
- ethical education



Technocratic paradigm

extraction
hierarchy
optimisation
growth at all costs
Separation

Relational paradigm

care
participation
reciprocity
coherence
long-term responsibility

Lead to fundamentally different futures.



Love as the Architecture of Conscious Relationship



For Federico Faggin, love is not merely an emotion - it is a fundamental property of conscious systems that enables coherence, meaning, and authentic connection.

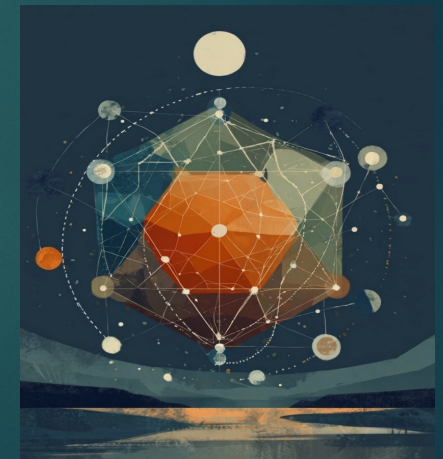
Love is integrative: It binds individuals into relationship without erasing individuality. Relational intelligence depends on this dynamic balance: autonomy + connection.

Love enables real knowing: Beyond data exchange, it allows recognition of shared interiority. This is the difference between transactional interaction and transformative encounter.

Love increases system coherence: In teams, families, organisations and societies, relational quality determines adaptive capacity.

Without love, intelligence fragments: High cognitive ability without relational depth produces optimisation without wisdom.

Relational intelligence is love made operational in complex systems.



Love as Governance

Reframing love as relational intelligence reshapes institutions:

- custodianship rather than ownership
- repair rather than punishment
- belonging rather than efficiency
- responsibility rather than short-term growth

These principles underpin:

- wellbeing economies
- regenerative development
- community-led governance
- ecological stewardship



Implications for the Great Shift

Relational intelligence supports:

- regenerative economic models
- relational education
- community-led healing
- intergenerational policy design
- ecological restoration

Technology is not rejected.
It is held inside belonging and ethical ecologies of care.



A Living Guidance System

Co-creation with the More-than- Human World

Love-in-action is not nostalgic.

It is a living guidance system refined over thousands of years.

It teaches humanity how to:

- remain coherent in complexity
- care across generations
- adapt collectively
- live within planetary limits



Life evolves through dynamic cooperation

Belonging is ecological

Love is the connective force
enabling collective adaptation.

The future will not be shaped by
technology alone, **but by the
quality of our relationships.**



The Ecology of Belonging

What if we reimagined wellbeing from the roots up?

A world where every child can flourish. Where communities, cultures, and ecosystems thrive together in harmonious interconnection.

[Learn more](#)

[EFS Framework ↗](#)



www.flourishproject.net
www.wendyellyatt.com

wendyellyatt@gmail.com