

ISSRNC Lifetime Achievement Award 2016

J. Baird Callicott

The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture is pleased to announce that J. Baird Callicott is the recipient of our first Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the study of religion, nature and culture. The award goes to those whose work has a relevance and eloquence that speaks, not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public and to multiple disciplines as well.

In his work as an environmental ethicist and philosopher, J. Baird Callicott has carved out a prominent and vital role in debates that have marked the field's growth: debates over intrinsic value in nature and natural systems, the vital place of Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic in contemporary environmental thought, and the role of religion and culture in ethical theory and practice, among others. Since teaching the world's first course in environmental ethics in 1971 at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Professor Callicott has become best known as the foremost exponent of Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic in relation to issues of environmental stewardship, wilderness, and climate change. Callicott's books include *In Defense of the Land Ethic: Essays in Environmental Philosophy* (1989), *Earth's Insights: A Survey of Ecological Ethics from the Mediterranean Basin to the Australian Outback* (1997), *Beyond the Land Ethic: More Essays in Environmental Philosophy* (1999), *American Indian Environmental Ethics: An Ojibwa Case Study* (with Michael P. Nelson, 2004), *Thinking Like a Planet: The Land Ethic and the Earth Ethic* (2013), and the co-edited *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy* (2008) and *The Great New Wilderness Debate* (1998). He has also served as President of the International Society for Environmental Ethics, Bioethicist-in-Residence at Yale University, and University Distinguished Research Professor and Regents Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Texas, where he taught from 1996 to 2015.



Among his many students, colleagues, and friends, he is known as a warm and generous person and a powerful mentor -- qualities that make him especially deserving of an award that calls not only for a transdisciplinary intelligence but for an embracing generosity of mind.

The *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* described Callicott's hope and life's work as the "attempt to forge a unified ethical vision; a standard of ethical behavior that will not only motivate a proper respect for nature, but that will at the same time also respect and tap into both the diversity and the uniformity of the Earth's various religious and cultural traditions." If this project comes up against objections and pitfalls, as critics are wont to point out, these are and have been instructive to the entire transdisciplinary field of studies in religion, culture, and nature. It is in this spirit that the ISSRNC honors this capacious, engaging, and highly original thinker with its first Lifetime Achievement Award.