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## Nature's primal self: An ecstatic naturalist critique of the anthropocentrism of Peirce's pragmatism and Jaspers' existentialism

by [Nguyen, Nam Trung](#), Ph.D., [Drew University](#), 2002, 414 pages; AAT 3048019

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**Abstract (Summary)**

Whether the self is situated in the semiotic community (Peirce) or in the encompassing realm of *Existenz* (Jaspers), an anthropocentric obsession with the self as the arbiter of knowledge has been continuously privileged. And whether located by modernism or dislocated by postmodernism, the anthropocentric self is still plagued with its own "crisis of subjectivity" (Keller). As a founding within nature, the self is ontologically fissured. Ecstatic naturalism succinctly states: "At the heart of the self is a cleft, a wound that emerges with the first dawn of consciousness and remains with the self until its death." The self is but one frail perspective of and in nature. One way in which the so-called nature's "primal self" can be semiotically and metaphysically explored and examined is through the perspective of ecstatic naturalism, which probes into the ontological divide or difference between *nature naturing* and *nature natured*. Because both Peirce and Jaspers affirmed the anthropocentric principle, they ignored the self's metaphysical relations to the ontological difference of *nature naturing* and *nature natured* as profoundly and radically articulated by Corrington's ecstatic naturalism. Ecstatic naturalism, as a descriptive (in its application to *nature natured*) and revisionary (in its application to *nature naturing*) metaphysics, is well equipped to probe deeply beneath the surface layers of the anthropocentric self theorized by Peirce and Jaspers in order to elicit the self's hidden origin, which is directly and infinitely sustained in its "primal ground," the unconscious of nature.

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**Advisor:** [Corrington, Robert S.](#)

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**School Location:** United States -- New Jersey

**Keyword(s):** [Nature](#), [Anthropocentrism](#), [Pragmatism](#), [Existentialism](#), [Peirce, Charles Sanders](#), [Jaspers, Karl](#), [Corrington, Robert S.](#), [Charles Sanders Peirce](#), [Karl Jaspers](#), [Robert S. Corrington](#)

**Source:** DAI-A 63/03, p. 974, Sep 2002

**Source type:** Dissertation

**Subjects:** [Philosophy](#), [Theology](#), [Religion](#)

**Publication Number:** AAT 3048019  
**ISBN:** 9780493621203  
**Document URL:** [http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=726410371  
&sid=9&Fmt=2&clientId=10355&RQT=309  
&VName=PQD](http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=726410371&sid=9&Fmt=2&clientId=10355&RQT=309&VName=PQD)  
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