



Advisory Board

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# CENTER FOR NATURALISM

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## Advancing Worldview Naturalism

Greetings,

Since you receive our bi-monthly newsletter notification, there's a good chance you're sympathetic with the mission of the Center for Naturalism: to advance science-based naturalism as a rational and humanistic worldview, an alternative to faith-based, dualistic religions and narrow or negative atheism.

Although basically naturalistic in outlook, none of the humanist, skeptic, or atheist organizations I know of are coming fully to grips with the fact that we are completely natural beings, without immaterial souls or contra-causal free will. To naturalize *ourselves* is the crucial next step in moving beyond supernaturalism, into an understanding of reality consistent with modern science. The Center for Naturalism (CFN) is taking the lead in what will be a long-term process of cultural change, articulating the progressive implications of seeing ourselves as fully embedded in the natural world.

During the past decade, Naturalism.Org has developed naturalism as a comprehensive *worldview* — see [http://www.naturalism.org/systematizing\\_naturalism.htm](http://www.naturalism.org/systematizing_naturalism.htm) and <http://www.naturalism.org/landscape.htm> for recent summaries. Based in a rational commitment to reliable knowledge, exemplified by, but not limited to science, naturalism holds that existence is constituted by a single interconnected realm, what we call nature. Human beings are full-fledged participants in the natural order, not exceptions to causal laws. Understanding this basic empirical fact about ourselves, we are led to more effective and compassionate solutions to personal and social problems. We also discover an emotionally satisfying approach to existential concerns that doesn't compromise or conflict with our cognitive standards.

Through its educational activities and initiatives, CFN develops constructive applications of naturalism, supports progressive social policies, and in collaboration with other secular groups helps to build a community of naturalists. We sponsor invited lectures, philosophy cafes and meetups, organize workshops and courses on naturalism, and host online venues such as the Applied Naturalism Group and the Naturalism Philosophy Forum. Naturalism.Org is among the world's most comprehensive online resources about worldview naturalism and its implications, and our book *Encountering Naturalism: A Worldview and Its Uses* continues to sell steadily.

An important function of the CFN is to find and amplify support for a thorough-going naturalism. Our newsletter alerts you to recent developments and draws attention to those who recognize the benefits of accepting a naturalistic view of ourselves. In order to expand our network, we conduct systematic outreach to writers, journalists, academics, scientists and others who might be sympathetic to the cause.

The CFN is a donor-supported, 501c3 non-profit educational organization which depends *wholly on those such as yourself*, who understand the importance of promoting a naturalistic worldview. Any amount is welcome, but a contribution of \$100 or more will make you Ally of Naturalism, plus you'll receive a copy of *Encountering Naturalism*. To give, please visit <http://www.centerfornaturalism.org/support.htm>, or send your donation to:

Center for Naturalism  
P.O. Box 441705  
Somerville, MA 02144

Many thanks for your help, and don't hesitate to call or write if you'd like to discuss what we're doing.

best regards,

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