All societies, in one way or another, lay claim to a territory. Within that territory, a culture arises from a mutual relationship with the land and ecosystem – including plants, animals and the observable cosmos. A culture consists of theoretical concepts, customs and social values. The theoretical concepts are the paradigms upon which the culture is based.

This conversation with Dr. Leroy Little Bear, recipient of the 2003 Canadian National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Education, will compare western academic metaphysics to that of the Blackfoot. The Blackfoot are an Indigenous people who have lived on the northern plains for thousands of generations, resulting in a culture intimately tied to the land. Is our current dominant metaphysics still serving us? Or are there other metaphysics, such as that of the Blackfoot, which can better serve our current academic and environmental needs to bring about sustainability and an ecological balance?