

The dissertation, Today's alternative paradigm: Considerate humanity with a revived sense of wonder at the world and a commitment to life, attempts to revise the Western worldview, in particular its understanding of the relationship between humans and their environment. The scientific focus of the thesis is based in environmental ethics, while the common ground and the method derive from the approach of cultural science toward culture and its aspects.

The aim of the dissertation is to offer a revived look on the reciprocal interaction between people and the world, which is inevitably modified through human culture. Critical reflections on the Western paradigm and its ecologically unsustainable consequences have been numerous within social sciences during the last decades. The perspective of the dissertation is a web consisting of three variables – man, the interpretation of their role in the world, and treatment of the natural environment implied by this interpretation.

The three pillars of the dissertation are considerate humanity, revived sense of wonder at the world and commitment to life. The first of them is an outcome of the analysis of two opposing schools of environmentalist thought, the anthropocentric and the non-anthropocentric. Both blocks include various nuances but they can be distinguished from each other according to the level of importance they ascribe to the human element. The thesis illuminates both the main divergences and the common platform of the two approaches, and it formulates an alternative attitude labeled as considerate humanity. Human being is acknowledged as the cognitive epicentre but the human way of understanding the world is determined by the ability to practice humbleness toward the whole which is inclusive and transcendent at the same time.

The pillar called revived sense of wonder at the world re-elaborates the Weberian thesis known as the disenchantment of the world.