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Humberto Maturana and Ximena Davila Yáñez: the Biology of Love

On 1/15/2020, the Center for Partnership Studies (CPS, California) awarded its second international prize honoring scholars who distinguish themselves in the dissemination of partnership studies in



different fields of academic study and research to Humberto Maturana and Ximena Davila Yáñez for their pioneering, international work through Instituto Matriztica, now [Escuela Matriztica de Santiago](#), on the biology of relationships and love, in alignment with partnership cultural principles.

Humberto Maturana's work, along with his colleague Ximena Davila Yáñez, spans over 23 years and has been particularly focused on the biology of love. Their invaluable research at the Instituto Matriztico, now Escuela Matriztica de Santiago, has become an influential scientific contribution to our understanding of the biological-cultural nature of humanness.

Maturana and Yáñez have published two ground-breaking books in Spanish, *Habitar Humano* en *Seis Ensayos de Biología Cultural* (2008) and *El Árbol del Vivir* (2015) in which they show how the emotion of love is operationally the fundament of the origin of living beings in the conservation of all molecular autopoietic systems. In accord with Riane Eisler's partnership model, Maturana and Yáñez demonstrate how the evolutionary history of humanity is not centered on competition and aggressive striving but on love and cooperation. The [Center for Partnership Studies](https://centerforpartnership.org/) Award was initially granted in 2018 to [Antonella Riem](#) from the University of Udine (Italy), for her pioneering contribution to World Literatures and Partnership Studies.

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