



## The Nature Institute

Dear Readers,

This issue of *In Context* marks a significant transition. Steve Talbott has stepped back as the editor. The first issue of this publication came out in the spring of 1999, only six months after our founding celebration in September 1998. During that fall we had received the advice to create a publication that would let people know about what we were doing and give them the opportunity to participate in the fruits of the work. As a young man in his twenties, Steve was already writing articles and had started a publication. Later he worked for many years as a senior editor for the publisher O'Reilly. In 1995, Steve started *NetFuture*, an online newsletter on technology and human responsibility, for which he wrote most of the articles. After Steve joined our work in 1998, *NetFuture* became a Nature Institute publication. So who could have been better positioned to edit the new publication than Steve? Wanting to express something of the core spirit of our work, we called the publication *In Context*. Here you have issue 45.

I had actually never dreamed that publishing would be such a significant part of the institute's work. We have Steve to thank for always setting high standards for what we publish. I had become familiar with Steve's editorial skills when he edited my 1996 book *Genetics and the Manipulation of Life*. He helped me to find ways to say what I wanted to express more felicitously, and he continues to be an important reviewer of everything we write. We have always strived to bring content that is accessible to the wide variety of readers of *In Context's* pages. At the same time, we recognize that each writer has a different style and voice; we want to honor that.

While the editorship passes on to new hands, Steve will continue to work on his research and writing connected with evolution (see p. 6). We are fortunate to have Elaine Khosrova as the new editor of *In Context*. Elaine has been working at the institute since October 2019, guiding outreach efforts. She brings a wealth of writing and editing experience to the task of shepherding each issue of the newsletter from conception to realization – you can read about some of what she has done on page 7. On that same page, you can read too about the expanding roles of colleagues Jon McAlice and John Gouldthorpe, both longstanding collaborators. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank graphic designer Mary Giddens who, since the very first issue, has done the layout for this publication with reliability, creativity, and more than a little patience. We look forward to fruitful co-working for many issues to come.

With thanks for your readership,

Craig Holdrege

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### *In Context*

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