

TRINITY AS A PATTERN OF WHOLENESS: A REVOLUTIONARY FRAMEWORK FOR HOLISTIC SCIENCE

PETER MERRY

Abstract

Trinities appear across spiritual, philosophical, and scientific systems as a recurring structural archetype. This paper presents a trinary framework from Volution theory — comprising the Container, Manifest, and Dynamics — and shows how this pattern underpins phenomena from cosmic emergence to human perception. Drawing on traditions from Taoism to quantum physics, the paper offers a comparative analysis and proposes this trinity as a universal pattern for holistic inquiry. The model provides not only a metaphysical insight but a practical method for navigating complexity, coherence, and transformation in systems. In so doing, it offers holistic science a framework rooted in both ancient wisdom and contemporary systems thinking.

1 Introduction: A Recurrent Pattern

Throughout human history, the number three has been used to express completeness, process, and transformation. From the Taoist Tao–Teh–Ching to Plotinus’ Divine Intellect–Matter–Logos, this trinary

PETER MERRY

logic seems embedded in the way reality unfolds and is experienced. The model proposed in Volution theory is one such expression — refined through modern systems thinking and field theory. It identifies three fundamental aspects that underlie any phenomenon: the Container (the unifying field or origin), the Manifest (that which is perceptible and differentiated), and the Dynamics (the energetic relationship between the two).

Rather than seeing this triad as merely symbolic, Volution theory treats it as an operational framework for understanding how systems emerge, persist, and transform. This paper explores that proposition and compares the Volution Trinity with analogous models across multiple knowledge traditions. It then considers its potential as a foundation for a new integrative scientific approach: one that is capable of holding subject and object, pattern and process, field and form.

2 The Volution Trinity: A Summary

The core thesis of the Volution Trinity is that every entity, at every level of reality, can be understood through three co-arising dimensions:

- Container – the boundary field or formative membrane that holds and informs the entity. This is akin to the morphogenetic fields described by Sheldrake [3] or the Akashic Field in Laszlo's work [2].
- Manifest – the perceivable expression or phenomena that arise within the field. These are the elements observable through our senses or instruments.
- Dynamics – the energetic relationships that mediate between Container and Manifest. This is the arena of emergence, transformation, and resonance.

These three are not separate, but intrinsically interwoven. The Dynamics are shaped by the Container and enact through the Manifest. The Manifest is an expression of the Container through the Dynamics. And the Container is maintained and evolved by the Dynamics of the Manifest. This trinity provides a lens to understand the interplay of wholeness and multiplicity, continuity and change, being and becoming.

3 A Universal Pattern: Cross-Traditional Concordances

The universality of this trinary pattern is evident when we examine spiritual and philosophical systems across cultures. Table 1 presents a synthesis of expressions of this trinity across traditions, aligned with the Volution framework of Container, Manifest and Dynamics. Table 1 – The Trinity Across Different Traditions

Reference	Container	Manifest	Dynamics
Generic	One	Many	Between
Merry	Unified Field	Relative Manifestation	Ubiquitous Spirit
Wilber [4]	Mind	Matter	Prana
New Science	Information	Matter	Energy
Taoism	Tao	Teh	Ching
Taoism [1]	Way of Final Reality	Authentic Human Life	Way of the Universe
Christianity	Father	Child (Christ–Mary)	Mother Spirit
Indra’s Net	Unmanifest godhead	Nodes	Web
Tibetan Buddhism	Dharmakaya	Nirmanakaya	Sambhogakaya
Kabbalah	Kether	Chokmah	Binah
Aurobindo	Transcendent / Shakti	Individual / Prakriti	Universal / Mahashakti
Plotinus	Divine Intellect	Matter	Reason / Logos
Greek	–	–	Sophia
Nature	Banks of river	–	Flowing water
Yoga	–	Grow	Kundalini
Self-Mastery	Higher Purpose	–	Accept present
Jung	Psychoid, Unus Mundus	Matter	Psyche
Quantum	–	–	Quantum Vacuum
David Bohm	Implicate Order	Explicate Order	–
Hologram	Unity of initiating beam	Split beams	Holographic image
Alchemy	–	King, gold	Queen, silver
Corpus Hermeticum	Father	Man	Cosmos
Curri van	Informational Membrane	Platonic forms	Higgs Field, Dark Energy
Spangler	Primal Substance	Incarnational Realms	Higher Order Realms
Wilber [4]	Causal	Gross	Subtle
Ancient Egypt	Horus (Order)	Set (Chaos)	Hathor
Hopi	–	Manifested	Manifesting

Despite linguistic and cultural variation, a remarkable coherence emerges. Whether framed as Mind–Matter–Prana (Wilber [4]), Father–Son–Spirit (Christianity), or Tao–Teh–Ching (Taoism), we see repeated attempts to articulate the dynamic interplay of source, form, and flow. In scientific discourse, similar patterns appear: David Bohm’s Implicate and Explicate Order mediated by quantum potential; holographic theory’s initiating

PETER MERRY

beam, recombination, and image; or in quantum physics, the informational membrane, Platonic forms, and the vacuum fields. These are not just metaphors, but deeply resonant ontological structures. They suggest that the trinary logic is embedded in the very architecture of reality, and that it can serve as a bridge across diverse epistemologies.

4 Reading the Trinity: Coherence Through Difference

The three aspects of the trinity function together to produce coherence:

- The Container provides the conditions for coherence and emergence. It is the holding field that connects parts into wholes, and carries the memory and intent of the system.
- The Manifest is the articulation of that coherence in time and space. It includes the differentiated parts, the appearances, the measurable and nameable elements.
- The Dynamics express the relational tension and flow between the Container and Manifest. It is in this domain that transformation, resonance and feedback loops occur.

Understanding systems through this lens enables a more nuanced perception. We no longer see only discrete objects or fixed categories, but emergent patterns shaped by fields and flows. This shifts our ontology from substance to relation, from form to formation.

5 Implications for Holistic Science

Holistic science requires more than the inclusion of subjective experience alongside objective data. It needs a coherent framework that can hold multiplicity, contradiction, and transformation without reducing one to the other. The Volution Trinity offers such a framework:

- It enables multi-level analysis: attending to structural conditions (Container), observed outcomes (Manifest), and dynamic processes (Dynamics).
- It integrates first-, second-, and third-person perspectives: interior experience (Container), relational intersubjectivity (Dynamics), and empirical observation (Manifest).
- It honours both ancient wisdom and contemporary complexity theory, offering a pattern language rooted in perennial philosophy but applicable to modern systems.

In education, for example, this framework allows us to design learning environments that hold a coherent purpose (Container), deliver content and outcomes (Manifest), and support relational and energetic flow (Dynamics). In medicine, it invites us to attend not only to symptoms (Manifest) but also to underlying fields (Container) and healing processes (Dynamics).

6 The Voluntary Arc: Development and Evolution

In Volution theory, evolution is understood as a spiral process in which the trinity shifts in emphasis across developmental stages. Early in emergence, the Container dominates: the system is held in potential, awaiting differentiation. As it matures, the Manifest stabilises: structures take form and become more visible. In periods of transformation, the Dynamics intensify: energy flows reconfigure the system, dissolving old patterns and inviting new ones.

This understanding enables us to diagnose where a system is in its lifecycle, and to discern what type of intervention may be most appropriate. It cautions us against premature fixation on form (Manifest) when field conditions (Container) or relational energy (Dynamics) are not yet aligned.

PETER MERRY

7 From Metaphor to Method: Applications and Praxis

While trinitarian models have often remained in the realm of philosophy or theology, the Volution Trinity aspires to practical relevance. Applications include:

- Organisational design: clarifying the organisation's Container (purpose, values), optimising Manifest structures (teams, roles), and enhancing Dynamics (communication, feedback).
- Healing practices: understanding illness as a breakdown in one or more aspects of the trinity (e.g., field distortion, blocked dynamics, misaligned form).
- Governance and leadership: balancing long-term vision (Container), operational delivery (Manifest), and adaptive responsiveness (Dynamics). Such applications require not only intellectual understanding, but embodied and systemic practice. They challenge us to become trinitarian beings: sensing the whole, perceiving the parts, and dancing with the flow.

8 Conclusion: Living into the Between

The trinity is more than a symbol. It is a pattern of wholeness, a template for integration, and a compass for navigation. Through the lens of the Volution Trinity, holistic science gains a map that honours the invisible and the visible, the timeless and the timely, the source and the stream.

Ultimately, the Trinity calls us to become participants in the evolution of consciousness — to live in awareness of the One, the Many, and the Between.

References

- [1] Harvey, P. 1997. An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History and Practices. Cambridge University Press
- [2] Laszlo, E. 2004. Science and the Akashic Field: An Integral Theory of Everything. Inner Traditions
- [3] Sheldrake, R. 1981. A New Science of Life: The Hypothesis of Formative Causation. Blond and Briggs
- [4] Wilber, K. 1982. The Holographic Paradigm and Other Paradoxes, Shambhala

Peter Merry



Peter Merry is a writer, teacher and social entrepreneur specialising in evolutionary systems, holistic science and conscious leadership. He is co-founder of Ubiquity University and Wyrd Technologies Ltd. His work integrates deep theory with practical application
<https://www.petermerry.org>