

# ATTENTION MEMBERS!

## *Personal Numbers and Office Procedures*

Please help your administration office to run smoothly and so help you efficiently:

- when your details change (address, telephone number, email address etc.) please make sure we know
- use your membership number whenever you contact us, and write it onto all correspondence, conference booking slips, subscription forms and orders for books, services etc.
- book early for conferences - it helps you get a place
- ensure cheques are made out correctly to Scientific & Medical Network; for conferences and orders: always add (legibly!) details of what it's for and membership number on back, even when accompanied by a booking form
- remember we're a network, and it often takes time for all relevant people to be contacted so when making requests give us time to respond helpfully (and always remember to tell us who you are - we sometimes get forms back with no name at all!)
- help us save money; whenever possible pay in £ sterling and remember to gift aid when you make a payment (subscription, conference fees, etc..) - it maximises funds available for more important things.

**Office hours are 10.00am to 5.00pm Monday - Thursday. Please leave a message if no one is available to take your call. We will get back to you as soon as we can.**

## Commission on Extended Science

The Network has set up a Commission for Extended Science. Its remit is to find practical ways to extend science, so that it can accommodate topics and questions that it is currently unable, or unwilling to accommodate. These include:

- Consciousness beyond the brain
- Unusual forms of consciousness and perception
- Paranormal phenomena
- Inherent meaning and purpose in the universe
- Esoteric knowledge

We are consulting widely with the science community and beyond, and plan to publish a report in 2017.

The work already done on this, and the contributions we have so far received, suggest that, if science is to extend in the ways we envisage, two significant things would have to change – its core assumptions (its ontology) and its rules of evidence (its epistemology). From these would flow new methodologies.

There is probably no need to tell Network members that this project has far-reaching implications, not only for science, but also for society as a whole. For example, it could help to take us beyond our current obsession with materialism, and it could also open up areas of knowledge and understanding that are currently considered to be outside the purview of science.

If you would like to be involved and/or have any suggestions for funding, please contact one of us.

Chris Thomson, christhomson1000@gmail.com

David Lorimer, dl@scimednet.org,

Richard Irwin, richard.irwin@scimednet.org

## Survey of Scientists Spiritual Practices and Beliefs

The Network, at the instigation of Rupert Sheldrake, has received support from the Salvia Foundation to undertake a survey of scientists, engineers and medical professionals to find out more about the spiritual practices and beliefs. The survey is being carried out by Ipsos MORI and will be completed by 1,000 people in the UK, 1,000 in France and 900 in Germany. The results will be available around Christmas, and we hope to publicise them in the New Year. An analysis will appear in due course on our website, as well as an article in the Review in April. The thought behind the survey is that it may well be that scientists are more open than they are generally willing to admit in public. If this proves to be the case, we hope it will help scientists to be 'come out' in this respect.

## Online Forums – are you interested?

Members who are registered on the new website will know that there are forums available, and that each conference has its own space. Recently, this includes the Rome meeting and the Conscious Ageing day. On the previous website, we did have forums on specific topics, but they were relatively inactive. They are appended below. If any member would be interested in coordinating one of these, please send an email to dl@scimednet.org and richard.irwin@scimednet.org.

1. Transpersonal Psychology and Consciousness Studies
2. Philosophy of Science and Religion
3. Subtle Energies Theory and Research
4. Cosmology and Quantum Physics
5. Holistic Medicine and Healing
6. Parapsychology and Paranormal Science
7. Evolution
8. Science and Esoteric Knowledge



## New Board Member – David Jaques

We are pleased to announce that David Jaques has joined the SMN Board and taken the role of Treasurer. David is a Fellow of the Institute of Financial Accountants, a Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants (Melbourne, Australia), and a Fellow of the Federation of Tax Advisers. He is a director of, and tax partner in, a Devon based Chartered Accountancy practice specialising in charity and other third sector clients as well as general accountancy practice. He is also a qualified but non-practicing hypnotherapist. Outside his professional work he is trustee and treasurer of a number of charitable organisations. He has had a keen interest in spirituality and the esoteric since his teenage years, and is currently working with the meditation practices of the pre-Socratic Greek philosophers. For recreation he enjoys walking, traditional archery, reading, music and, occasionally, dabbling in photography, beach fishing and cooking.

## MEMBERS' NEWS



### Dr Peter Fenwick – Research Study on Hyperscanning

Hyperscanning, the recording of the EEG of two people at the same time will be the main method of gathering information. This EEG data will be subjected to phase slope index (PSI) analysis to show the degree of causative coupling. Alain

Forget, who can transfer light, will be studied with a student who can “see” the light and the channels of possible information transfer between them investigated. Facial, visual and eye movement cues will all be measured. Other general bodily changes relating to arousal will also be recorded; GSR, heart rate and respiratory rate, will be analysed. The mental set of the teacher and student is important so a pairwise giving/not giving and receiving/not receiving stimulus protocol will be used. Subjective reports will be collected after each session. The design of the study will allow the subjective effects of the “light” to be separated from that of the energy and transmission over distances, through social media face time and video studies.

A fundamental part of the study is the question of new cerebral rhythms – gamma activity – generated during the light giving process. This will require EEG source modelling to localize it accurately and placing the focus or foci on the MRI of the subject. The identification of which brain structures are involved will allow us to explore how this activity relates to activity in other parts of the same brain. We will attempt to fit the data to local, and if necessary, ‘non-local’ models of the underlying processes. We anticipate that our effort will provide new insights about this novel and potentially important mode of information transfer between humans.



### William Bloom – New Website to Support Carers Uses the Latest in Neuroscience and Self-Care

It is good news when the latest developments in neuroscience and self-care are disseminated in a clear and accessible way. Supported by a grant

from Awards for All, the Spiritual Companions Trust led by Member William Bloom has just launched a new video website.

EveryoneCares.com is dedicated to supporting the eight million plus professional, family and volunteer carers in the UK.

It hosts fifteen short videos and their core message is twofold. First, that the instinct and skills to care for each other are hardwired into our mammalian DNA. Second, that there are straightforward and easy strategies that work through our neural and endocrinal systems to boost our strength, wellbeing and general health.

William asks that members of the Network bring the website to the attention of anyone they know who is involved in caring.

<http://everyonecares.com>



### Giles Hutchins – Future Fit Leadership Academy

Pioneering research shows us that today’s mainstream leadership and organisational development approaches are no longer fit-for-purpose. The Future Fit Academy brings best-in-class experts together in a unique way for bespoke ‘new norm’ leadership support, facilitation, exploration and implementation for organisations serious about becoming future-fit. Visit [www.ffla.co](http://www.ffla.co) Future-fit business is about creating the conditions conducive for ourselves and our organisations to flourish in life-affirming ways while keeping the wheels on the road in these challenging times.

### Nicholas Hagger – 2016 Gusi Peace Prize for Literature

Nicholas was awarded this prize in the Philippines. He has written over 40 books in a literary career spanning 60 years. He used his acceptance speech to make a plea for a democratic world state – not the kind envisaged in the New World Order – ‘Such new thinking could



create a world government with enough authority to abolish war, enforce disarmament and alleviate famine, disease and poverty. ‘He concludes: ‘in my literary works I’ve held up universal peace within a new world structure as a vision of hope that can inspire the younger generation to bring in a better world for our grandchildren. I’m grateful to the Gusi Foundation for recognising my body of work, and hope that my philanthropic vision will one day improve the lives of *all* humankind.’

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=os4NrcAcwks](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=os4NrcAcwks)

[www.nicholashagger.co.uk/nicholas-hagger-gusi-peace-prize-2016-for-literature-acceptance-speech](http://www.nicholashagger.co.uk/nicholas-hagger-gusi-peace-prize-2016-for-literature-acceptance-speech).

## LOCAL GROUPS



## LONDON GROUP

CLAUDIA NIELSEN – 0207 431 1177,  
[claudia@cnielsen.eu](mailto:claudia@cnielsen.eu)

To read reports from other meetings, go to the REPORTS page of the London Group page of the Network’s website. If you don’t live in London but wish to be advised of London events, please drop me an email and I shall add your e-address to the circulation list.



## September

This month we had the pleasure of welcoming again **Prof Ravi Ravindra** during his yearly visit to the UK. Ravi is an honorary member of the SMN and is Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he served for many years as a professor in three Departments: Comparative Religion, Philosophy, and Physics. This evening he addressed the theme of *Eternal Wisdom*.

Considering that he was speaking to people interested in science and spirituality, Ravi started by pointing out that we are all both scientists and philosophers, striving to understand the world in which we live. As a rule, Ravi said, we tend to seek out and trust the statements of scientific and spiritual leaders but, he stressed, we should be wary of accepting such accounts as ultimate truth. Especially when it comes to understanding fundamental questions of meaning, he suggested that we need to find the “truth” within ourselves. Eternal Wisdom is something we experience internally, it is not rational, intellectual knowledge. The word eternal is not, as we may think, an extension of time. Ravi says, it is at right angle to time. As an example, he pointed out that marriage has an extension in time, but love does not. Love intersects marriage and other relationships at different or at all times, but it has no extension in time. The eternal is timeless. Eternal Wisdom cannot be grasped by the mind. It is through direct experience that we learn about it. We see this wisdom expressed through poetry, painting, music, and different cultures will express it differently according to the history, philosophy, language etc., which constitute their cultural framework.

The object of Eternal Wisdom is spiritual mystery and this is experienced at an individual level, rather than universal, which is the level of science. Whereas we aim at solution when referring to scientific mysteries, spiritual mysteries cannot be solved - the right word is dissolved. The path for this dissolution is spiritual practice which helps us to enter other levels of consciousness. There different laws operate and in order to understand those and see things of spirit we need to undergo a radical internal transformation. The aim of this transformation is to obtain freedom *from* ourselves. Ravi repeatedly stressed the point: do not believe what I say, find it out for yourselves by focusing the attention on your inner world and listening to the quiet voice within!

## October

This month we heard **Charles Jencks**, who is amongst other things an artist, landscape designer, scientist and historian. This evening he presented the inspiration to his work, *The Universe as Artist*. This idea goes back to Plato, an understanding that the Universe as artist is the author of violence and ugliness as well as immense beauty and harmony. Nature in all its dimension is the inspiration for Charles’ work, which he describes as metaphysical and social realism. He illustrated the talk with many pictures and what emerged

in each and every one was a depth of meaning and symbolism. Taking humanity as one of the eyes of the Universe, he portrays in his works science, cosmology, philosophy, as well as psychology. He is critical of modern architecture which tends to dismiss meaning, and go solely for aesthetics and he illustrated this showing buildings by famous architects amongst other places, in Las Vegas. His work includes enigmatic icons, a signature of post-modern architecture. As well as meaningful, it is also polemical, as highlighted by the fact that a more robust material had to be used to replace an element in one of his works which was broken by an anonymous disgruntled person no less than 6 times! He says that he does not mind being critiqued, but he does not accept censorship. Charles is the force behind the Maggie Cancer Centres, which he started in 1995 with his late wife Maggie, and which now has more than 20 centres in Britain and other countries.

Charles explained the symbolism and meaning portrayed in his landscapes which he showed us in a wonderful sequence of pictures. Many of his creations reflect scientific principles. His most recent work is the Crawick multiverse in Scotland.

This was a commission by the Duke of Buccleuch on a site which belonged to a bankrupt coal company. The area was not only desolated but also polluted. After due clearing and cleaning, Charles created a wonderful garden around the theme of the multiverse which, as well as symbolic and enigmatic, abounds with meaning. 'We humans are meaning making beings, and any art which does not communicate meaning, is no art at all', he says! It was a fascinating presentation, followed by most interesting questions and observations on a variety of topics within Charles' wide breadth of knowledge.

## November

The November presentation was given by **Geoff Crocker**, who has a career in business strategy working with international corporations, and who, following a re-evaluation of his relationship with the Anglican Church, developed a model of spirituality which he calls **Atheist Spirituality**, the title of this evening's talk. He is the author of *An Enlightened Philosophy: Can and Atheist Believe Anything?* and of *A Managerial Philosophy of Technology: Technology and Humanity in Symbiosis*.

Geoff started by positioning himself, stating that he does not dismiss religion and considers the Bible valuable if understood as myth. He acknowledges the relevance of religious and mystical experiences, but points out that only very few people have experiences of that nature. This fact inspired him to develop a model designed to be useful for the majority of people who have no truck with religion or have never had mystical experiences, i.e. the majority of the population. It aims to bridge the reductionism of secular atheism and the remoteness of religion. It is based on something he maintains we can all share, which is virtue. Virtue is where theist and atheist spirituality meet. He pointed out that we see the world in various contexts, economy, social, political, etc., but there is currently no forum where virtue, such as kindness and generosity, can be meaningfully discussed and encouraged. God, he says, is exogenous and conversely virtue is intrinsic to human nature and can be understood as the connection between people. He offered no certainty on whether virtue is a subjective component of human nature, or whether it is objective, a part of Nature or the Cosmos, manifesting in human nature.

In his work towards an inclusive spirituality, Geoff explored emergence, naturalism and meaning as parameters for the understanding of human spiritual nature. He critiqued the use of physicalism as an adequate hypothesis, pointed out the moral ambiguity of nature with its beauty and its horror and explained his understanding of the spiritual parameter of meaning in life as interpretation rather than achievement. Geoff quoted André Comte-Sponville as the philosopher on whose list of values he developed his own thoughts on the subject, and mentioned that his full ideas are available on his website [www.atheistspirituality.net](http://www.atheistspirituality.net).

## SYDNEY GROUP – JEAN INGMAN

Report of the meeting of the Scientific and Medical Network held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

The meeting was attended by 14 people and there were two apologies. Jean started the meeting by welcoming everyone and giving a short explanation of the Scientific and Medical Network. The speaker was **Patrick Bradbury**, who talked about Mindfulness, one of the newest ancient medical treatments. He opened by acknowledging the Guringai language group of the Garigal Aboriginal Clan.

What does mindfulness mean? Awareness and acceptance, accepting who you are and where you are.

Patrick started by recounting how he had needed to practise mindfulness on the journey to the meeting, having been lost a couple of times and also watching as someone reversed into his vehicle as he was having lunch in a restaurant.

He explained that he had been interested in meditation for many years but he became aware of "Mindfulness" following a couple of medical problems. Whilst at the hospital he was introduced to a mindfulness course for cancer patients and their carers and since embarking on the course has found the practice of mindfulness very helpful. The question arises, "Why practise mindfulness? What's in it for me?" Results have shown that mindfulness has helped thousands of people affected by illness, both patients and carers, to lead better lives.

Patrick asked us all to take two sultanans, which he used to demonstrate mindfulness. The first sultana he asked us to look at it carefully, then to describe what we saw. We then put it between our teeth and then into our mouths and slowly and carefully chewed it while all the time being mindful about texture, taste feeling etc. The second sultana we were asked to chew slowly whilst thinking of all the people and processes involved in the production of the sultana. These were powerful exercises.

Patrick talked about a book, *Full Catastrophe Living* by Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn, which covers the subject of how mindfulness helps reduce stress, and how the power of the mind affects us all. He related a story from the book where a group of trainee cardiologists were examining a patient who was doing very well. The surgeon, who the patients venerated, came in and said this patient has TS and then left. The patient suddenly changed and became unwell and stressed, when asked what was wrong she said that the surgeon had said she had a Terminal Situation! The trainee doctors explained that what was meant by TS was Tricuspid Stenosis but the lady was so convinced the senior physician, who could not be contacted, had said she was seriously ill that she died shortly after from heart failure. Mind power! We decide about our health and wellbeing and should all mindfully choose to be healthy.

We then embarked on two mindfulness exercises, the first was abdominal breathing which stills the monkey mind, and the second was a full body scan from the tips of the toes and fingers to the top of the head which helped us to relax.

Patrick talked about seven features/characteristics of mindfulness which were, non-judging, patience, beginners mind (the richness of the present), trust, non-striving, acceptance and letting go. Discussion then followed on mindfulness, meditation, the power of the mind and how catastrophe can be the destruction of the old followed by renewal.

We then broke for afternoon tea which was followed by a very interesting documentary from the Catalyst programme which showed how mindfulness and meditation can change the brain, how it can help people with depression, can help athletes, those in prison to lead better lives among other things and helps us to be happier and healthier and to slow the aging process. It can affect the mind as well as the body.

As usual the meeting continued with animated discussion amongst all present. We thanked Patrick for a very interesting afternoon.

At the meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>, **Lindsay Mell** spoke on the topic *Beyond Duality - Towards Transformation*.

Lindsay began by quoting the song by Neil Diamond, "I am.. I said". He then talked about Vasubandhu, an early Buddhist philosopher who composed many works on the main Buddhist schools and also argues with non-Buddhist, Orthodox (Hindu) positions. He went on to discuss the Major Arguments from the Treasury of the Abhidharma and the 'Disproof of the Self' and his exclusive dichotomy (real & causal vs unreal & conceptual) which serves not only as a tool for refusing a separate self but also as a method of denying apparent subject/object relations or apparent substance/quality relations and translating them into linear, causal series. Lindsay outlined the principles regarding Momentariness and Continuity. A lively discussion ensued.

## GRAMPIAN GROUP - NICOLA MILLER

*The Healing Power of Sound*

With **Hugh Cameron**

Ten local group members gathered to listen to our speaker in November, Hugh Cameron, a musician at the Camphill School in Aberdeen. Hugh recently completed his training to become a Sound

Healing Practitioner with the College of Sound Healing. A number of us had assisted him, as willing volunteers, during his training. On his successful completion, we were keen to find out more about the healing power of sound.

According to the College of Sound Healing, sound healing is the therapeutic application of sound frequencies to the body/mind of a person with the intention of bringing them into a state of harmony and health. Hugh's aim in his talk was to demonstrate some basic principles concerning how voice and musical instruments could be used therapeutically. He began, with the help of a monochord, by talking about octaves, intervals, harmonics, and the association of different vowel sounds with different harmonics. Following this, Hugh then guided us through a vocal toning exercise, some finding it easier than others to hear the harmonics that accompanied the changing vowel sounds.

With the help of a volunteer, he then showed us how he uses his voice to scan a human body, talking of the need to be sensitive to changes in his voice as he scans each part of the body; changes of loudness or changes of the vowel sounds themselves, for example. At the end of the talk we were treated to a very relaxing experience (lying or sitting) while Hugh played a variety of instruments that he may use during a sound healing session. These included marimbas, a pan drum, didgeridoo, psaltery, and violin. He brought with him a broad selection of books likely to be of interest to those wanting to find out more about the therapeutic use of sound and offered all those present a free 1:1 taster session. And on a final note, two local group members came to the session feeling more than a little jaded, one with a headache. Both went home feeling very much better than they had when they had arrived—and the headache had gone!

For those wanting to find out more, please visit:  
[www.collegeofsoundhealing.co.uk](http://www.collegeofsoundhealing.co.uk)  
[www.hughc.yolasite.com](http://www.hughc.yolasite.com)

## WEST WALES GROUP – ERIC FRANKLIN

On 1 November **Rev Don MacGregor** spoke to us around the subject of light and spirituality. He often thinks in analogies, and here at Lampeter, not a centre of science but of humanities, this wide-ranging approach was very appropriate to his audience, which included a few students and about a score of hearers of mature years. Light, Don said, is fundamental for both spirituality and science. He quoted the first chapter of our Bible as a description not of physical-world truth, but of metaphorical truth for us. The Universe we see is a divine emanation. Around us we do indeed discern laws of nature by which the Universe operates. Before the Big Bang there was no space, no time, no things, but perhaps we should say that there was a thought in the divine mind. In that first chapter of Genesis we have a poetic description of a creation with a mind behind it and we infer that all we see has emanated from another plane of existence. We are told that light was the first created essence, and in our current scientific paradigm it is indeed light energy, including the wavelengths that are invisible to us, that is fundamental. Everything is energy.

David Bohm put it well. All matter, he said, is frozen light. We are ourselves, in our physical being, extremely dense light. It is unsurprising that light in a metaphorical, metaphysical sense, is, similarly, fundamental to spirituality, and is used as its symbol. Jesus - some of us would give his name as Yahshua - described his own theological understanding, embodied in himself, as the Light of the World. All religious texts, from all the traditions, refer to God as light, and Don pointed out the close correspondence between understanding and physical light. Jesus says "I am come that you may have life and light in abundance". What does this all mean? Don described his own view in a variety of analogies. Rainbows only appear when there is both light and rain: we feel the pains of life as well as the joys. Some colours seem sad, perhaps, others joyful, but it is the whole of life that is imbued with the divine.

Returning to science Don reminded us that about seventy per cent of the universe is now thought to be composed of dark matter and dark energy. We can see myriad galaxies, but 95 percent of the Universe we can't register at all. And, similarly, the fundamental questions concerning our own consciousness also seem beyond our knowledge.

Looking out upon the global village surrounding us, Don remarked that most are still in the depths of ignorance, the world still being dominated by egoic thinking. The whole economic system, to give an example, is based on greed, and we must find ways to live more harmoniously.

Still within physical-world science, Don noted the experiments of Popp, which revealed that all living cells produce light. Indeed, light is the physical world's means of communication. Maybe, in another analogy, the spiritual energy of light is the carrier wave for love, and we, in the physical world, are the receivers. Jesus was a human being with a consciousness evolved to a stage where he could embody that love.

Astrophysicist Bernard Haisch asked "If some underlying realm of light is the fundamental reality holding up our universe how does the universe of space and time appear to a beam of light? Relativity theory is clear: if you could move at the speed of light you would see all space shrink to a single point and all time collapse to an instant. So in the reference frame of light itself there is neither space nor time. This realisation gives an insight into what the New Testament refers to as eternal or everlasting life. It is perhaps better termed 'timeless life'. So the spiritual viewpoint is that there is no time or space but only oneness.

The popular view is that science and religion or spirituality are opposed, but at the cutting edge of science there is as much mystery as in religious thought. Consciousness itself is a case in point: scientists can't get a handle on it at all.

Another area of science is currently seeing a lot of input, Don said. Even at absolute zero temperature there is a residual field of quantum fluctuation which cannot be eliminated by any physics. Various realms of study were suggesting this, but for some time nobody tried to draw together the various threads. Eventually it seemed that an energy source in the background of all reality should be acknowledged, and it is now known as the Zero Point Field. May the local convener invoke the shade of Plato here, and assert his resurgent relevance? In fact, Don told us, unpublished articles in top physics journals suggest we may one day have an inexhaustible energy supply from the fundamental field.

One of those areas of research revealed that microtubules are an 'internet of the body'. There is a global coherence of light throughout the body. Both short term and long term memory are not in the brain but in the Zero Point Field, the brain being merely the reader of these external records, and Don finished his talk with the remark that it seems to him that spiritual illumination is currently pouring into our planet through many minds. New ideas are everywhere. There is chaos and confusion from which no-one is exempt, but the world is moving from the dualism of bad and good towards a new era of oneness, of wholeness. One of the signs is the trend towards meditation practice. One friend of Don's offered mindfulness lessons to a local school. She was allowed to teach her course at the school, with an amazing response from the school troublemakers who were prominent among her students. Our vision of earth's future will be realised through the holding of the mind steady in the light of the soul.

The local convener here in Lampeter and West Wales has, as yet, no events planned for 2017. Perhaps some will materialise before the Spring.

## CAMBRIDGE GROUP – RICHARD MICHELL

**Michael Langford** introduced some key aspects of moral philosophy, which illustrated the real difficulties that human beings have had over the centuries in trying to find a sound basis for ethical thought and action. He spun a fascinating thread from Plato and Aristotle, through St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas to Jeremy Bentham, J.S Mill to the confused contemporary picture. This is clearly a fearsomely involved and yet vitally important topic: after all, the ability to find tenable ethical guidelines, or indeed develop corresponding instincts, tells us much about the evolution of individuals and societies. The ensuing discussion brought in Spinoza's monolithic monism and touched upon the patterns of similar striving underlying the major religious traditions and secular humanistic views.

“Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want. Everything else is secondary”

Steve Jobs (1955 - 2011)

## MEMBERS ARTICLES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Available from the editor or through links – dl@scimednet.org

### SCIENCE

**Werner Heisenberg - Explorer of the Limits of Human Imagination**  
*Fritjof Capra (5 pp. from Resurgence)*

**Complexity, Interdependence & Objectification**  
*Vasileios Basios (15 pp.)*

**Encountering Complexity: the Need for a Self-Reflecting (Pre)Epistemology**  
*Vasileios Basios (20 pp., from R. Buccheri et al. (eds.); Endophysics, Time, Quantum and the Subjective; 547-566)*

**Beyond Darwin**  
*Jose Diaz Fiixat (50 pp.)*

This article surprisingly reveals the existence of a very precise spiral rhythm in the emergence of the evolutionary leaps that mark the history of the universe.

**The Emperor's New Genes**  
*Dr Peter Mansfield MA MB BChir (Cantab) (6 pp.)*

Manifold advances in genetics in the past 60 years have brought us no nearer to understanding what makes us *homo sapiens*. We have been blind to the causation of organic form, until recently trusting genes to account eventually for everything. Now that we are at last thinking epigenetically, we should check what physics can tell us.

**Science of the Whole - Integrating Matter and Spirit**  
*Chris Thomson (10 pp.)*

**Why is Life Cellular?**  
*Pier Luigi Luisi (7 pp. from WSI International)*

### MEDICINE/HEALTH

**Strannik**  
*Graham Ewing (10 pp.)*

The Strannik Technology meets the key aims and objectives of the European Commission's EUR1.2BN funded Human Brain Project for an understanding of (i) what the brain does and how it does it, (ii) the relationship between brain function, colour perception and pathological onset, and (iii) a unified, multi-level understanding of how the human brain integrates the flow of pathological data from the viscera. This is completely unprecedented in modern medicine. It comprises two basic elements: Strannik Virtual Scanning (a medical screening technology) and Strannik Light Therapy (a unique form of Light Therapy).

**Good Healthkeeping Makes Sense: But is Anyone Interested?**  
*James L. Oschman, PhD (3 pp., from The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine Volume 21, Number 10, 2015, pp. 583-585)*

**Health: The No-Man's-Land Between Physics and Biology**  
*Peter J. Mansfield, MA, MB, BChir (6 pp., from The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine Volume 21, Number 10, 2015, pp. 593-597)*

**The Source of Healing: The work of the healing medium**  
*Alexander Vonlanthen*  
*Reinhold Ritter (2 pp.)*

Alexander Vonlanthen is the Swiss Joao de Deus.

### PHILOSOPHY/SPIRITUALITY

**Śāntideva's Bodhicaryāvatāra**

*Francis Brassard (10 pp.)*

The Bodhicaryāvatāra (BCA) is a relatively short Buddhist text dealing with the spiritual practice of the aspirant to awakening (bodhisattva) with a special emphasis on the experience of the thought of awakening (bodhicitta) and the cultivation of virtues (pāramitā).

**Science and Spirituality: the Need for Complementarity**  
*Pier Luigi Luisi (7 pp. from WSI International)*  
*Younghusband Lecture - Dr Iain McGilchrist (18 pp.)*

Looks at three problems that are often either implicit or explicit in many spiritual traditions: the one versus the many, what one might call 'no-self' versus the self, and eternal changelessness versus evolution, change and flow.

**Introduction to the Art and Science of Panosophy**  
*Paul Hague (3 pp.)*

**The Origin and Purpose of the Universe**  
*Paul Hague, November 2016 (12 pp.)*

**Changing Cultural Values and the Transition to Sustainability**  
*Hardin Tibbs (20 pp. from Journal of Futures Studies, March 2011, 15(3): 13 - 32)*

### PSYCHOLOGY/CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES

**Who Controls Your Mind? (Hint: It's Not Your Brain)**

*Deepak Chopra on AK Mukhopadhyay's supracortical consciousness (6 pp. from San Francisco Chronicle)*

<http://www.sfgate.com/opinion/chopra/article/Who-Controls-Your-Mind-Hint-Its-Not-Your-6791280.php>

**Systems-bound and Systems-independent Consciousness**  
**Complex Inter-phase in between: From Narrative to Science**  
*A K Mukhopadhyay (5 pp. from Psychology and Behavioural Science, Volume 1 Issue 3 - September 2016)*

**Systems Psyche: its Structure, Operation and Possible Molecular Links**

*A K Mukhopadhyay (12 pp. from Psychology and Behavioural Science, Volume 1 Issue 3 - October 2016)*

**Near-Death Experiences, The Mind-Body Debate, and the Nature of Reality**

*Eben Alexander III, MD (8 pp. from Missouri Medicine)*

**Near-Death Experiences - The Last Word**

*Eben Alexander III, MD (8 pp., from Missouri Medicine | July/August 2015 | 112:4| 275)*

The phenomenological properties and transformative power of NDEs are totally different, and, in many ways, the opposite of dream content.

**The Consciousness of Space, the Space of Consciousness**  
*Mauro Bergonzi and Pier Luigi Luisi (11 pp.)*

**Consciousness, Spirituality, and Post-materialist Science: an Empirical and Experiential Approach**

*Gary E. Schwartz (14 pp., 14 pp, from Oxford Handbook of Psychology and Spirituality)*

**The Unbearable Fear of Psi: on Scientific Suppression in the 21st Century**

*Etzel Cardeña (from Journal of Scientific Exploration, Vol. 29, No. 4, pp. 601-620, 2015)*

**Perception and Hallucination - The Case for Continuity**

*Charles McCreery, DPhil (36 pp., Oxford Forum Philosophical Paper No. 2006-1)*

**The Ancient Origins of Consciousness**

*Reviewed in the last issue - a further review by Steve Minett (3 pp.)*

**Non-Local Consciousness and the Near-death Experience**

*Dr. Barbara Mango (6 pp.)*

**Has Science Discovered the 'etheric body'?**

*Richard Silberstein, talk to Science and Spirituality Seminar, Auckland, Oct. 2016 (3 pp., from Theosophy/Science Group Newsletter 79)*

**Ian Gordon-Brown - Interview (8 pp.)**

Ian was a member and pioneer of Transpersonal Psychology.

**GENERAL**

**2017 TOP 200 Memes and Agents-of-Change: Where will the next DISRUPTION come from?** From ATCA 500 (12 pp.) – a thought-provoking list!

**Symmathesy – A Word in Progress: Proposing a New Word that Refers to Living Systems**

**Nora Bateson (22 pp. – see my review of her book below)**

**Conscious Ageing White Paper**

**David Lorimer (ed) – summary from 19 November conference.**

**A Mystic's Introduction to Conscious Ageing**

**John C Robinson (5 pp.)**

**Aethericism**

**Degard (26 pp.)**

Describes Degard's new philosophy of art with illustrations from her paintings.

**NEWS AND NOTICES****New PSI Encyclopedia:  
Society for Psychical Research**

The Psi Encyclopedia is a new collection of articles and case studies about psi research, the scientific investigation of psychic phenomena. It provides much more reliable information than Wikipedia, which has been taken over by guerrilla skeptics. The Psi Encyclopedia exists largely thanks to the generosity of Nigel Buckmaster, who willed a sum of money to the Society for Psychical Research with instructions to publish works that would make the evidence for psi and survival phenomena better known. Buckmaster became interested in the subject after he and his sister, in their separate homes in London, experienced synchronous anomalous experiences at the time of the death of their mother in 1966.

Psi Encyclopedia | The Scientific Investigation of Psychic Phenomena

**Bonnevaux: a new contemplative centre  
and meditation retreat to help to make the  
world more peaceful.**

In the past 20 years, the World Community for Christian Meditation and Meditatio, its secular outreach, have shown that meditation builds community. Bonnevaux, its new home, is an inspirational opportunity to take this work to the next stage. Contemplative centres through history have always served as places of peace and reconciliation. A thousand years ago a Benedictine monastery was built in Bonnevaux, near Poitiers in France. On these ancient foundations we are going to develop a contemplative centre for the 21st century.

Bonnevaux will contribute to the peace-building and mutual understanding so much needed in our world now. As a meditation centre with its roots deep in the Christian tradition and yet open to all in an inclusive spirit, it will show the potential of meditation for people of all ages, beliefs and backgrounds to unify minds and heal divided hearts. With its focus on a simple and universal teaching, Bonnevaux will deepen the contemplative dimension of Christian life and also bring the fruits of meditation to people of other religious or secular beliefs. A wide range of retreats and events will be shaped to address the needs of participants from diverse cultures.

Bonnevaux is a beautiful site which still retains parts of the original monastery built there in 1119. It is an ideal space, with a spirit of deep peace and beauty, for a contemplative retreat centre attuned to the needs of our time. A main renovation and building project can give birth to this vision.

For more information visit <http://bonnevauxwccm.org/>

**ONLINE ARTICLES  
FROM ANTHONY JUDGE**

**Engaging Proactively with the Risk of World Misleadership**

**Trump vs Clinton and the potential of carpe diem in the democratic process?**

<https://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/avoiding.php>

**Radical Disaffection Engendered by Elitist Groupthink?**

**Democratic rehearsal of the final battle between the Forces of Light and Darkness**

<https://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/reframe.php>

**Engaging an Opposing Ideology via Martial Arts Philosophy**

**Reframing the challenge of Trump and Jihadism as worthy opponents**

<https://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/martarts.php>

**Global Economy of Truth as a Ponzi Scheme**

**Personal cognitive implication in globalization?**

<https://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/ponzi.php>

**Global Challenge of the Global Challenge**

**In-quest of a decision-making framework appropriate to a world in crisis?**

<https://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs10s/challeng.php>

