

THE SCIENTIFIC & MEDICAL NETWORK PRESENTS

BEYOND THE BRAIN

28 - 29 October 2017, Regent's University London, NW1 4NS

Featuring:

Stuart Hameroff, MD
Rupert Sheldrake, PhD
Dean Radin, PhD
Diane Corcoran, PhD
Cassandra Vieten, PhD
Chris Roe, PhD
Penny Sartori, PhD



Seven world-class experts in consciousness and non-ordinary experience



Near-Death Experiences in Virtual Reality by Virtual Awakenings



Hypnagogic Light Experiences with the Lucia No. 3



Sound bath meditation with Urubu



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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"I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness. We cannot get behind consciousness. Everything that we talk about, everything that we regard as existing, postulates consciousness."

"There is no matter as such. All matter originates and exists only by virtue of a force which brings the particles of an atom to vibration and holds this most minute solar system of the atom together. We must assume behind this force the existence of a conscious and intelligent mind. This mind is the matrix of all matter."

Max Planck, 1918 Nobel Prize in Physics

Welcome to *Beyond the Brain XII - Further Reaches in Consciousness Research*, a collaborative conference organised by the Scientific & Medical Network (SMN), with the Institute for Noetic Sciences (IONS), the Parapsychological Association, the International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) and the Center for Consciousness Studies at the University of Arizona.

Consciousness is one of the hottest topics in science, which is why we established the interdisciplinary Beyond the Brain conference series with Willis Harman and Edgar Mitchell of IONS at St John's College, Cambridge, in 1995. This will be the twelfth in the series. The conferences all explore the frontiers of consciousness research beyond the limits of scientific materialism.

Our speakers are all at the cutting edges of their fields and will be discussing innovative research strategies to probe the nature of consciousness. You will gain a vital overview and a deeper understanding of how consciousness research is expanding the frontiers of science.

We are grateful for your presence and participation, and hope that this conference will stimulate, inspire and nurture you. We hope that you will take advantage of the wonderful networking opportunities which it offers.

Conference Directors: David Lorimer, Dr Oliver Robinson

Conference Administrators: Dr Chiara Reghellin, Lana Sackwild

Location

All plenary sessions will take place in Tuke Hall (see map on back page). There are stalls, books and experiential installations in Herringham Hall.

Catering

You will be able to buy tea and coffee as well as lunch in the Refectory. For those who booked in advance, lunch will be in the Knapp Gallery.

Badges

Please be sure to wear your name badge throughout the conference for identification and security.

SESSION 1

In partnership with the Parapsychological Association

8:45

REGISTRATION

9:15

David Lorimer - *Introduction*

9:30

Dr Rupert Sheldrake - *The Extended Mind*

10:45

BREAK

11:15

Prof Chris Roe - *Recent Advances in Parapsychology*

12:30

Dr Rupert Sheldrake & Prof Chris Roe - *Dialogue*

13:00

LUNCH

14:00

GUIDED MEDITATION WITH DR PETER FENWICK

SESSION 2

In partnership with the Institute for Noetic Sciences

14:25

Dr Oliver Robinson - *Introduction to Session 2*

14:30

Dr Cassandra Vieten - *The Future of Consciousness Research*

15:45

BREAK

16:15

Prof Dean Radin - *Magic 2.0*

17:30

Dr Cassandra Vieten & Prof Dean Radin - *Dialogue*

19:00

SACRED SONGS SINGALONG WITH BEN GROSS
AND FRIENDS, IN THE KNAPP GALLERY

Programme Summary – Sunday

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SESSION 3

In partnership with the Center for Consciousness Studies

8:45	REGISTRATION
9:25	Prof Bernard Carr - <i>Introduction to Session 3</i>
9:30	Prof Stuart Hameroff - <i>Is Consciousness Guiding the Universe?</i>
11:00	BREAK
11:30	Prof Stuart Hameroff - <i>Is Consciousness Guiding the Universe?</i>
12:45	LUNCH
13:45	SOUND JOURNEY MEDITATION WITH URUBU

SESSION 4

In partnership with the International Association for Near-Death Studies

14:25	Dr Peter Fenwick - <i>Introduction to Session 4</i>
14:30	Dr Diane Corcoran - <i>Veterans and Near Death Experiences</i>
15:45	BREAK
16:15	Dr Penny Sartori - <i>The Transformative Power of NDEs</i>
17:30	Dr Diane Corcoran & Dr Penny Sartori - <i>Dialogue</i>
18:00	David Lorimer - <i>Conclusions and Implications</i>



In partnership with the Parapsychological Association

Chair: David Lorimer, Programme Director of the SMN

DR RUPERT SHELDRAKE

Rupert Sheldrake is a biologist and author of more than 80 scientific papers and eleven books, including *Seven Experiments That Could Change the World* (1994), *Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home* (1999), *The Sense of Being Stared At* (2003) and *The Science Delusion* (2012). His most recent book, *Science & Spiritual Practices* (2017) is now available at the book stall.



Sheldrake studied natural sciences at Cambridge University and philosophy and history of science at Harvard University, before returning to Cambridge for a PhD in biochemistry (1967). He was a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge (1967-73), and Director of Studies in biochemistry and cell biology. As the Royal Society Leverhulme Scholar (1968-69) he studied rainforest plants at the University of Malaya, and as the Royal Society Rosenheim Research Fellow (1970-73), he carried out research on the development of plants and the ageing of cells at Cambridge University.

THE EXTENDED MIND

Experimental Evidence for Effects of Attention and Intention at a Distance

Our minds seem to extend far beyond our brains. Experiments have shown that people can influence others at a distance just by staring, even when all normal sensory clues are eliminated. The sense of being stared at also affects non-human animals and may have evolved in the context of predator –prey relationships. Intentions can have effects at a distance, and can be detected telepathically, as shown in experiments with dogs that know when their owners are coming home, and in people's ability to anticipate who is about to telephone. Minds are also extended in time. Just as memories connect us with our pasts, precognitions and presentiments may connect us with our futures.

PROF CHRIS ROE

Chris Roe, PhD teaches at the University of Northampton on parapsychology and the psychology of anomalous experience, neuroscience and consciousness, and spirituality and health. His research interests focus on understanding the nature of anomalous experiences, the psychology of paranormal belief and the phenomenology of paranormal experience as well as experimental approaches to test claims for extrasensory perception and psychokinesis, particularly where they involve psychological factors. Recent research has been concerned with unconscious measures of psi and predicting performance using a composite personality measure called 'lability'. Chris is a Board member of the Parapsychological Association, a Council Member of the Society for Psychical Research and the International Affiliate for England of the Parapsychology Foundation. He edits the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* and is on the Editorial Board for the *European Journal of Parapsychology*.



RECENT ADVANCES IN PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Approaches to Access Unconscious Processes/Material

In this presentation I will describe the PA as it operates in the 21st Century, focusing in particular on recent advances in parapsychological research as practised by PA members. This research has its historical origins in dream ESP and Ganzfeld studies, which I shall describe as a means to make unconscious material available to conscious awareness. But I will concentrate on more recent experimental designs that interrogate the suggestion that psi might operate at a more subtle, unconscious level that moderates decision making and behavioural responses without awareness. This will include recent high profile experiments by Daryl Bem and colleagues, and also a suite of experiments that I have conducted to look at the effects of reward/punishment upon performance at an implicit psi task.



In partnership with the Institute of Noetic Sciences

Chair: Dr Oliver Robinson, Senior Lecturer in Psychology

DR CASSANDRA VIETEN

Cassandra Vieten, PhD, is President of the Institute of Noetic Sciences and Scientist at California Pacific Medical Center's Mind-Body Medicine Research Group. She is a psychologist, scientist, and author, whose primary interest lies in how psychology, biology, and spirituality interact to affect experience and behaviour. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the State of California, and several private donors and foundations, her current projects focus on spirituality in mental health care, extraordinary experiences as a result of meditation, and using cognitive, social, and transformation science to make change agents more effective.



She is author of three books, including *Living Deeply: The Art and Science of Transformation in Everyday Life* and *Spiritual and Religious Competencies in Clinical Practice: Guidelines for Psychologists and Mental Health Professionals*.

THE FUTURE OF CONSCIOUSNESS RESEARCH

Decades of research have examined anomalies which challenge a one-way street interpretation of the nature of reality (in which matter gives rise to consciousness), in favour of a more subtle, conditional, and contingent interplay between the material and immaterial aspects of existence. But how shall we bridge between the past and the future of consciousness research? How do we inspire a younger generation of researchers to be bold, and to also continue to build what hard-won credibility has been painstakingly built over time for the field of parapsychology? What doors can new technologies such as virtual reality, mobile devices, and big data open for the field of consciousness research? And what is the relevance of this research in today's society? Join Cassandra Vieten, President of the Institute of Noetic Sciences to explore the future of consciousness research.

PROF DEAN RADIN (VIA SKYPE)

Dean Radin is Chief Scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences and Associated Distinguished Professor of Transpersonal and Integral Psychology, California Institute of Integral Studies . Before joining the research staff at IONS in 2001, he held appointments at AT&T Bell Labs, Princeton University, University of Edinburgh, and SRI International. He is author or co-author of over 250 academic and popular articles, three dozen book chapters, and three books including the award-winning *The Conscious Universe* (HarperOne, 1997), *Entangled Minds* (Simon & Schuster, 2006), and the 2014 Silver Nautilus Book Award winner, *Supernormal* (Random House, 2013). His next book, *Science of Magic*, will be published in 2018 (Penguin Random House).



MAGIC 2.0

...Towards a Resurrection of an Esoteric Legend

The esoteric form of magic, called magick by occultists, involves three types of phenomena. All three have been extensively tested in psi research, and at least two of those types are known to exist with very high degrees of scientific confidence. This means magic also exists. However, taboos about magic are so strong that the evidence is not only ignored by the scientific mainstream, the psi-magic connection is nearly invisible to the very field that studies it — parapsychology. I will explore why this is so, and I will present a modest revision of the prevailing scientific worldview that accommodates all of existing science, plus psi and magic.



In partnership with the Center for Consciousness Studies
Chair: Prof Bernard Carr, Vice-President of the SMN

PROF STUART HAMEROFF

Stuart Hameroff, MD, is an anaesthesiologist at the University of Arizona known for his studies of consciousness, microtubules and mechanisms of aesthetic action. In 1994 he organised the interdisciplinary conference 'Toward a Science of Consciousness', now simply 'The Science of Consciousness', held annually ever since. In 1997 Hameroff co-founded The Center for Consciousness Studies' at the University of Arizona which he now directs. In 1995 Hameroff and Roger Penrose introduced the 'Orch OR' theory positing that consciousness depends on orchestrated quantum processes in microtubules within brain neurons. The quantum processes ('objective reductions') are Penrose's proposed solution to the measurement problem in quantum mechanics, relativistic, and proposed to upwardly influence neuronal and brain activities via microtubule vibrations. Recent evidence supports quantum resonances in microtubules, and suggests anaesthetics act on microtubules to prevent consciousness.



IS CONSCIOUSNESS GUIDING THE UNIVERSE?

The place of consciousness and its role in the universe remain unknown and controversial. Western philosophy and mainstream science consider consciousness to be computational, epiphenomenal, acausal and illusory, whereas Eastern philosophical and quantum physical approaches consider consciousness to be an intrinsic feature of the universe, playing an active role. But which specific intrinsic feature of the universe entails consciousness? Sir Roger Penrose proposed consciousness results from self-collapse of the quantum wavefunction by 'objective reduction' ('OR'), a process in the basic structure of spacetime geometry.

The Penrose-Hameroff 'Orch OR' theory further suggests OR events in cytoskeletal microtubules within brain neurons are 'orchestrated' by inputs, memory and vibrational resonances, and terminate by 'orchestrated OR' to give meaningful conscious moments. If so, consciousness as an intrinsic feature of the universe (one offering pleasurable experience) may have prompted the origin of life and driven its evolution, and perhaps that of the universe itself. In the context of the 'anthropic principle', which considers the extraordinary 'fine tuning' in the various physical constants enabling life and consciousness in the universe, it is suggested here that the constants may mutate and evolve over aeons to optimize consciousness, that, in some sense, consciousness is guiding the universe.



In partnership with the International Association for Near-Death Studies

Chair: Dr Peter Fenwick, President of the SMN

DR DIANE CORCORAN

Diane K. Corcoran served in the Army Nurse corps for 25 years, starting in Vietnam and ending as the Chief Administrator in Frankfurt Army medical center during Desert Storm. During her time in the service, she also completed a MA and PhD. She currently is a health care consultant specialising in health care technology, smart card use in health care and the care and support of people who have had Near-Death Experiences (NDEs).



Dr. Corcoran is President Emeritus of The International Association for Near-Death Studies. She has lectured on the implications of NDEs for the military and nursing professions on topics such as supporting terminal patients, grief and bereavement, SIDS deaths, and other issues related to death and dying. She has started a research fund for exploring NDE's in the military and how we might help these service members. She has published several articles on the NDE and combat NDEs and continues to counsel people who have NDEs.

VETERANS AND NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

...And How We Can Facilitate Their Recovery

We know veterans are committing suicide at the rate of 20 service members a day. Is there a way we can help address this terrible statistic with a new intervention and different approach? Currently, NDEs are not addressed at all in their care, yet recently new research shows that 48% of combat related service members are having NDEs in addition to their other injuries and emotional trauma. I am proposing we look at helping veterans across the globe with a new approach.

DR PENNY SARTORI

Dr Penny Sartori worked as a nurse for 21 years. She undertook one of the UK's first prospective studies of NDEs over the course of five years under the supervision of Professor Paul Badham and Dr Peter Fenwick. She was awarded a PhD for her research in 2005. She continues to research NDEs and currently works at Swansea University where she also teaches modules called *Exploring the Mind and Consciousness* and *Science, Spirituality and Health* on the part-time humanities degree.



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF NDES

During the course of my prospective hospital research it was evident that NDEs occur and have very real, sometimes life changing, effects on those who experience them. It is therefore paramount that all healthcare workers are educated about NDEs to ensure that patients can be directed to the necessary support to help fully integrate such a transformational experience. I will discuss the transformative power of near-death experiences and give examples of people who feature in my forthcoming book co-authored with Kelly Walsh.

THE SCIENTIFIC & MEDICAL NETWORK

The Scientific and Medical Network was founded in 1973 by George Blaker, Dr. Patrick Shackleton, Dr. Peter Leggett and Sir Kelvin Spencer. The founders believed that neither orthodox religion nor conventional science was sufficient to answer pressing questions about human existence and the cosmos, and that new ways of thinking were needed.



The Scientific &
Medical Network

The Network provides interdisciplinary education exploring the frontiers of science, consciousness and spirituality. It draws on a worldwide community of scientists, doctors, psychologists, engineers, philosophers and theologians to provide events, publications, and courses that link insights from the spiritual traditions and the arts, with the study and application of science and medicine. The Network assumes that there are many ways of knowing the world and ourselves, of which science is just one effective way. In order to do justice to the full spectrum of human experience and the complexity of the cosmos, it encourages dialogue and interaction between the spiritual, the scientific, the philosophical and the arts in open-minded enquiry.

Member Benefits

- Four conferences each year including one in continental Europe.
- Regional groups which organise meetings e.g., the London group.
- *Paradigm Explorer* journal published three times a year.
- *SMN Thinking Challenge* papers by leading scientists or medics.
- Monthly e-newsletter for members.
- Promotion of contacts between leading thinkers in our fields of interest.
- A blog discussing current and controversial topics and science, medicine and spirituality.
- A website with a special area for members including forums, articles, papers, conference videos and book reviews.
- White papers on our key conferences and meetings.
- Student concessionary rates and some bursaries available.

Web: scimednet.org - **Tel:** +44 203-468-2034 - **Email:** info@scimednet.org

THE INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCES

The Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting individual and collective transformation through consciousness research, transformative learning, and engaging a global community in the realization of our human potential.



IONS was founded in 1973 by Edgar Mitchell, Apollo 14 astronaut in order to pursue “a new story of who we are and what we are capable of becoming.” Over the past four decades, IONS has had a catalytic influence on the frontiers of both scientific inquiry and consciousness transformation practices, championing new perspectives on mind, matter, and spirit.

IONS’ investigation into the role of consciousness in healing has significantly contributed to the scientific understanding of how the mind influences health, and has helped to transform mind-body medicine into a vital component of most major U.S. and international medical centres. Supporting some of the first research on the benefits of meditation and compassion sparked the development of new scientific methods and insights that are now being utilized in every major university in the country. Pioneering scientific work on the interconnectedness of consciousness through time and space has challenged traditional notions of the nature of reality, and is now gradually penetrating the domain of academic physics. Frontier research at the nexus of science and spirituality, including the role of prayer in healing, and how engagement in spiritual communities and practices, continues to broaden the range of topics for scientific inquiry.

While recognising the critical importance of basic research, IONS has always been dedicated to improving the well-being of people and the planet. We develop and test real-world tools that lead to fundamental shifts in consciousness, improved health and wellness, and enduring individual and social change.

Web: noetic.org

THE PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Parapsychological Association (PA) is the international professional body for the scientific and scholarly study of 'psi' (or 'psychic') experiences, such as telepathy, clairvoyance, remote viewing, psychokinesis, psychic healing, and precognition.



Founded on June 19th, 1957 at the suggestion of Dr. J. B. Rhine, Director of the Duke Laboratory, its aim was to promote better communication between scientists working in the field, advance parapsychology as a science, disseminate knowledge of the field, and integrate the findings of parapsychology with those of other branches of science. Thus the PA holds an annual scientific convention, maintains a website that provides balanced information about research, produces a member magazine (Mindfield) and is associated with the Journal of Parapsychology to encourage new scholarly work.

The PA membership includes most of the active parapsychologists in the world, but currently has just 123 professional members and 79 associates, reflecting the modest size of the community. Nevertheless, the PA has been recognised as a rigorous scientific body, being an affiliated organisation of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) since 1969.

Web: parapsych.org

IANDS

The International Association for Near Death Studies (IANDS) was founded in 1980 and is the oldest organisation dedicated to the Near Death and related experiences. Our primary mission is one of support, education and research. We have 88 support groups around the US and some associations with European groups. We give an annual NDE conference and some smaller educational offerings every year. We distribute research through our professional journal and have published our first research book this year, *The Self Does Not Die*.



Web: iands.org

THE CENTER FOR CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES

The Center for Consciousness Studies at the University of Arizona was formed in 1998 with a seed grant from the Fetzer Institute. The Center is a unique institution whose aim is to bring together the perspectives of philosophy, the cognitive sciences, neuroscience, the social sciences, medicine, and the physical sciences, the arts and humanities, to move toward an integrated understanding of human consciousness. The Center is unique in its broad spectrum approach. Other groups tend focus either on cognitive neuroscience, philosophy or purely phenomenal experiential approaches, whereas the Center not only integrates these areas, but “thinks outside the box” of conventional wisdom which has thus far, at least, failed to make significant breakthroughs. The Center has also inspired other groups such as the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness and those who organise other conferences.



Web: consciousness.arizona.edu

Delegates are invited to enjoy the following experiences during the conference. The Experiential Workshops can be found in Herringham Hall.

LUCIA HYPNAGOGIC LIGHT MACHINE

The Lucia N°3 provides a deep limbic system relaxation while simultaneously encouraging a unique transcendental journeying experience. Step out of the stress of everyday life and into the present moment of bliss, a state of deep relaxation coupled with focus, where one is in touch with their own intuition and sense of wholeness.

White light passes through closed eyelids, past the retina to the pineal gland and central brain, creating a visual experience of one's own design. The inner consciousness of the traveller produces scenes of indescribable beauty and each person's experience is completely different.

Web: 1000petals.in/luciano3.html

DEATH IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

A Virtual Reality Near-Death Experience, by Virtual Awakening

"Death is Only the Beginning" is based on a conceptual representation of a Near Death Experience (NDE). Through 360° immersive virtual environments, it takes the viewer through various stages of a NDE, subjecting the viewer to visions of an afterlife realm, and a confronting life review of key global issues facing us today.

Virtual awakening is an emerging platform that aims to combine thought-provoking art with futuristic technology providing immersive, therapeutic, mind-expanding experiences that ultimately empowers people to expand their boundaries, unleash their true potential and lead them to an enlightened perception of life.

Web: virtual-awakening.com/



