

PRESS RELEASE


The Primacy of Consciousness: The Next Great Scientific Revolution? Galileo Commission Online Summit and Book Launch

December 4-5, 16:00-20:30 GMT



GALILEO COMMISSION
SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK
ACADEMY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF POSTMATERIALIST SCIENCES
AND
INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCES

PRESENT



THE PRIMACY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

THE NEXT GREAT SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION?

MENAS KAFATOS ◦ PIM VAN LOMMEL ◦ DEAN RADIN
◦ MARJORIE WOOLLACOTT ◦ CHARLES TART ◦
JULIA MOSSBRIDGE ◦ DIANE HENNACY POWELL
◦ NATALIE DYER ◦ DANIEL BENOR ◦
STEPHAN SCHWARTZ ◦ EDWARD CLOSE ◦ GARY SCHWARTZ
BERNARD CARR ◦ RUPERT SHELDRAKE ◦ DAVID LORIMER

FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER
4-8:30 PM (GMT)

SATURDAY, 5 DECEMBER
4-8:30 PM (GMT)

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A joint event with the Galileo Commission, Scientific and Medical Network, Academy for the Advancement of Postmaterialist Sciences, Institute of Noetic Sciences

"I regard consciousness as fundamental, matter is 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; it exists only by virtue of a force bringing the particle to vibration and holding it together in a minute solar system; we must assume behind this force the existence of a conscious and intelligent mind. The mind is the matrix of all matter."

- Max Planck, Nobel Prize for Physics, 1918

What if consciousness is fundamental and even primary?

Join some of the world's leading consciousness researchers for a series of round tables to launch the landmark Academy for the Advancement of Postmaterialist Sciences (AAPS) volume: *Is Consciousness Primary?* (Edited by Stephan A. Schwartz, Marjorie Woollacott PhD and Gary E. Schwartz PhD) – see link below.

Story at a glance:

This new landmark volume proposes a revolution in our understanding of consciousness: leading consciousness researchers describe how their studies and life experience led them to the conclusion that mind and consciousness are fundamental and not incidental to our understanding of reality.

What this means:

We humans are more than sophisticated biochemical computers as transhumanists propose with their mechanistic way of thinking. Rather, we are essentially multidimensional beings capable of accessing deeper structures of reality and meaning in a unified and interconnected cosmos. Such experiences of oneness entail an ethic of care and compassion.

[The Galileo Commission report](#) argues for an expansion of a science of consciousness beyond the conventional physicalist worldview by widening the evidence base to examine the implications for our understanding of reality of research into significant human experiences such as veridical out of body perceptions in near-death experiences, children who remember previous lives, and the extensive peer-reviewed scientific studies of parapsychology. These findings suggest that the predominant view that the brain generates consciousness requires radical revision.

The Galileo Commission therefore encourages scientists and academics to 'look through the telescope' at this evidence base that we think represents a fundamental challenge to the prevailing materialistic outlook. This new approach seeks to combine rigour and creativity, drawing on first person (inner experiences) as well as third person (external observations).

While acclaiming the extraordinary achievements of the scientific endeavour, the Galileo Commission Report, supported by 100 scientists and academics affiliated to more than 30 universities worldwide, argues that science is being held back by such an implicit and largely unquestioned materialistic approach to consciousness.

The Galileo Commission Report concludes that science is being held back by its own self-imposed limitations. It encourages scientists and academics to 'look through the telescope' at this wider evidence base - calling for a paradigm shift away from a fundamentally materialistic outlook, towards an expanded science of consciousness.

There is now growing support for the idea that consciousness is fundamental and even primary, as Max Planck noted – and these views have considerably greater explanatory power when it comes to accounting for this wider evidence base,

which materialist thinkers tend to ignore or dismiss – as Jeff Kripal observes, our conclusions are a function of our exclusions and that to ‘dismiss is to miss’.

This first Galileo Commission Summit, chaired by Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Prof Marjorie Woollacott, David Lorimer and Prof Bernard Carr will feature four interactive round tables with prominent consciousness researchers: Dr Menas Kafatos, Dr Pim van Lommel, Dr Dean Radin, Prof Charles T. Tart, Dr Julia Mossbridge, Dr Diane Hennacy Powell, Dr Natalie L. Dyer, Dr Daniel Benor, Prof Marjorie Woollacott, Prof Edward R. Close, Stephan Schwartz, and Prof Gary E. Schwartz.

Between them, the presenters have written over 1,500 peer-reviewed articles, 200 book chapters, and written or edited over 80 books.

Themes:

- *The Primacy of Consciousness and Experience* (chaired by David Lorimer)
- *Freeing Science from Scientism* (chaired by Dr Rupert Sheldrake)
- *Postmaterial Health and Healing* (chaired by Prof Marjorie Woollacott)
- *Physics, Nonlocality and Synchronicity* (chaired by Prof Bernard Carr)

Details: <https://explore.scimednet.org/index.php/events/event/the-primacy-of-consciousness-the-next-great-scientific-revolution/>

Is Consciousness Primary?

https://www.amazon.com/Consciousness-Primary-Postmaterialist-Sciences/dp/1735449105/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Is+Consciousness+Primary%3F+Schwartz&qid=1606089897&sr=8-1

The Layman’s Guide to the Galileo Commission Report: <https://explore.scimednet.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Laymans-Guide-to-the-Galileo-Commission-Report.pdf>

“The scientific world is to a very large extent in denial about consciousness. These essays on the primacy of consciousness go a significant way towards addressing such a limitation”

Professor Brian Josephson, FRS; Nobel laureate, Physics.

Who are we?

- **The Galileo Commission** is an informal international and interdisciplinary group of over 100 cognitive neuroscientists, physicists, physicians, biologists, philosophers and psychologists affiliated with over 30 universities worldwide and who are engaged in consciousness studies and are committed to expanding the scope and assumptions of current science. We now also have over 200 more supporting academic professional affiliates.

-Website: www.galileocommission.org

-The Galileo Commission Report: <https://galileocommission.org/report/>

- **The Scientific and Medical Network** was founded by senior academics in 1973, the Scientific and Medical Network is a worldwide professional community and membership organisation for open-minded, rigorous and evidence-based enquiry into

themes bridging science, spirituality and consciousness. It brings together open-minded and discerning people who are inclined to a non-materialist interpretation of the universe and who have a sympathetic interest in parapsychological and spiritual matters covered in the Galileo Commission Report.

The Network is part of the contemporary quest for a more spiritual mode of thinking and being that is compatible with science. *Hence it promotes a greater acceptance by science and medicine of the human being's spiritual essence, as consistent with science.* As such the Network challenges the adequacy of an exclusively materialistic approach to reality as a sufficient basis of knowledge and values.

-Websites: www.scimednet.org, www.beyondthebrain.org

- **Academy for the Advancement of Postmaterialist Sciences** is a non-profit membership and education organization whose mission is to promote open-minded, rigorous and evidence-based enquiry into postmaterialist consciousness research. Their vision is to inspire scientists to investigate mind and consciousness as core elements of reality.

-Website: <https://www.aapsglobal.com/about/>

- **Institute of Noetic Sciences** is inspired by the power of science to explain phenomena not previously understood, harnessing the best of the rational mind to make advances that further our knowledge and enhance our human experience. Scientists at IONS apply the rigours of their respective disciplines to explore phenomena, with a focus on understanding humanity's inherent interconnectedness and inner wisdom.

-Website: <https://noetic.org/about/>

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Contacts:

For more information on the event or to arrange an interview, please get in touch with:

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